THE INTERNET MAGAZINE

10 DECEMBER, 1996, $4.95

# AUSTRALIAN NET Guide

# Phones on the Net

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**EXCLUSIVE!**
**Rolling Stones prizes**

**50 Great Downloads**
Best software on the Net

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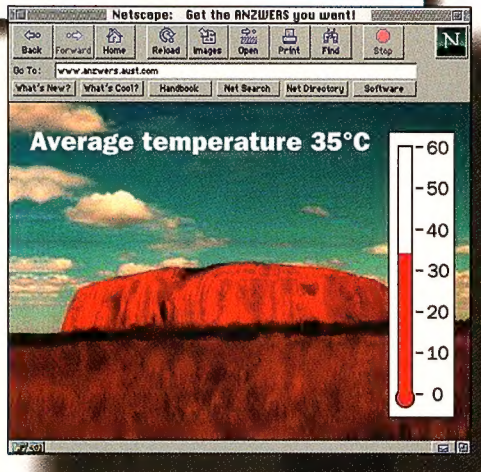


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# features


32 **PHONE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**
You can now ring across the globe for a lot less than a local call. It's time to call those relatives you left behind or friends who moved away to wish them a Merry Christmas.

34 **FROM BELL TO THE NET**
So you'd like to use the Net for phone calls? Our feral technocrat, Robert Kirwan, has checked it all out from the deep south of Melbourne. Here's all the software and a rundown on how it works.

48 **THE TOP TEN GIFTS FOR THE TECHNOPHILE**
Technophiles, computers and gadgets go together. The *ANG's* technophiles have shopped around for the best gifts to appeal to those of you who just can't get enough technology.

52 **50 BEST DOWNLOADS**
Like to try new software? It's all out there on the Net. Here's our guide to the best freeware, shareware and trialware for Mac and PC.

66 **VIVID IMAGINATION:** TALKING TO NATHAN SHEDROFF
Nathan Shedroff, US Web site designer guru, was a guest speaker at the AIMIA conference recently. During his visit he also presented a seminar for the Hiser Group. Linda Hopkins caught up with him online to talk about some of the top Web sites he has designed.


# quickstart

## BEGINNERS' GUIDE

If you are new to the Internet, the following sections will help you out with beginners' information:


| | |
|---|---|
| Technobabble | 112 |
| How the Internet Works: Retrieving a Web page | 68 |
| Professional E-mail | 70 |
| From Bell to the Net | 34 |


# extras


| | |
|---|---|
| Win a Super Nintendo Pack: Subscribe | 22 |
| Share in over $7000 worth of prizes | 30 |
| Win exclusive Rolling Stones memorabilia | 9 |
| Get Microsoft's ActiveX CD-ROM free | 9 |
| Win a copy of David Siegel's Creating Killer Web Sites by creating your ideal holiday. | 114 |
| A list of advertisers | 113 |
| Digital Camera Winners | |


Gary Green of Balwyn VIC, Noel Ryan of Beresfield NSW, Wayne Anthoney of Cherryville SA, Jocelyn Geraghty of Budrim QLD

# Contents

## departments


| | |
|---|---|
| Credits | 6 |
| Letters | 26 |
| News | 9 |
| Win Rolling Stones memorabilia | 9 |
| Oracle's Network Computing Architecture | 10 |
| Online insurance | 13 |
| New taskmaster for com.au | 18 |
| BookMark | 20 |
| Reviews | 23 |
| PhotoImpact | 23 |
| LiquidFX | 23 |
| First Aid 95 Deluxe | 24 |
| Technobabble | 112 |
| Net Nutters | 114 |

## navigation

### TUTORIALS


| | |
|---|---|
| How the Internet works – retrieving a Web page | 68 |
| Professional E-mail – using Eudora Pro | 70 |
| Connecting OS/2 to the Net | 74 |
| Getting noticed – registering your Web page | 78 |


### SITESEEING


| | |
|---|---|
| Surviving Summer | 81 |
| Net Soaps | 85 |
| Net Radio | 91 |
| Cricket | 97 |
| Hunks and Babes | 103 |
| New Oz Sites | 109 |


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|---|---|
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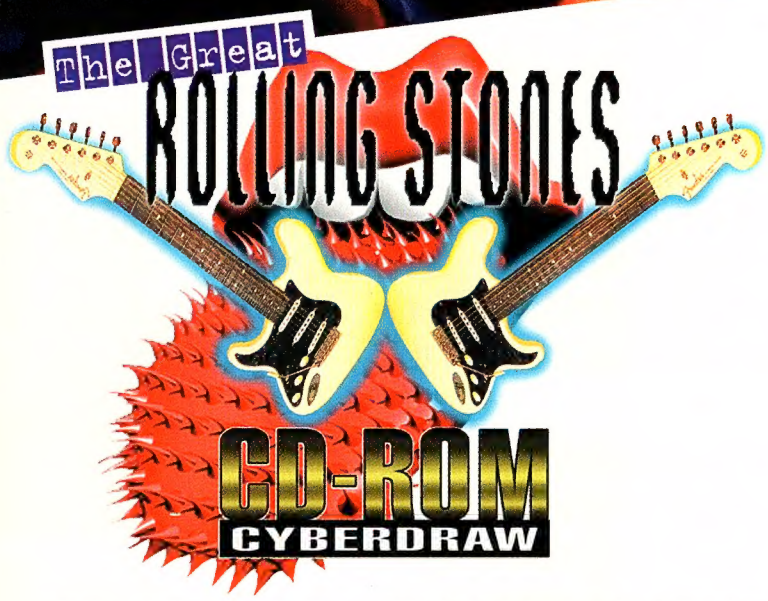


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**Editor** Jeremy Horey ‹neted@netguide.aust.com›

**Guides and tutorials editor** Nicole Manktelow ‹nicoleng@netguide.aust.com›

**Art Director** Sonya McLennan

**Design and layout** Sonya McLennan and Paul Cheung

**Online design and maintenance** Viveka Weiley and Paul Cheung

**Sub-editors** Linda Hopkins, Stephen Jenkins and Helen Mitchell

**Code cutters** Tech Talk Australia

**Writers and contributors** David Mitchell, Robert Kirwan, Stephen Jenkins, Julian Lincoln, Osmund Iversen and Martin Hoegh-Guldberg.

**Special thanks for their support and patience** Denise Dillon, Dell Horey, Geeta Mitchell, Michael Taylor, Gen Anthill and Bill the legal eagle.

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**Publisher** Mark Hollands (02) 9437 0066 ‹markhol@ozemail.com.au›

**Advertising manager** Jennifer Kessler (02) 9437 0066 ‹jkessler@ozemail.com.au›

**Subscription inquiries and back issues** Ian Wombwell (02) 9437 0066 or fax (02) 9437 0088 or e-mail ‹ianwo@cyberpubs.aust.com›. Otherwise, go to our Internet site (see below) or fill out the subscription form on page 22 in this issue.

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**Pretentious things like music we listened to and the food we ate during the making of this issue...** Bread, Nappy Brown, Equa, Enigma, The Carpenters, Liza Minnelli, The Beautiful South, Twix chocolate bars and last night's leftovers. **Computer stuff we love...** *Creating Killer Web Sites* by David Siegel. **Things we hate...** We don't really hate anything this month – we are at peace.



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*Written by Tech Talk Australia (02) 9438 5288.*

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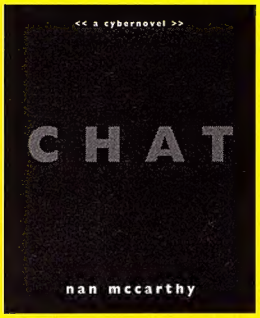
Our e-mail address ‹neted@netguide.aust.com›

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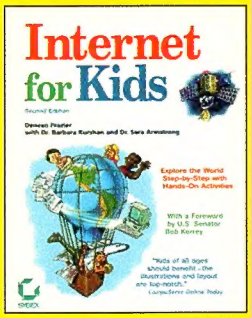


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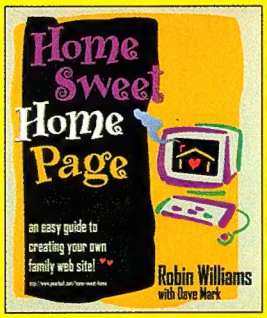


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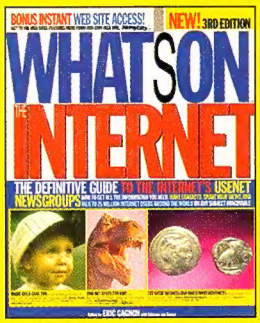


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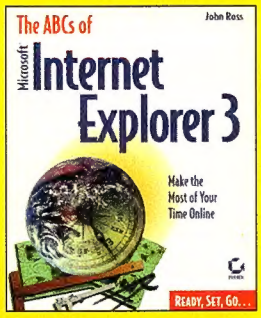


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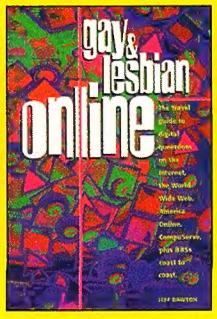


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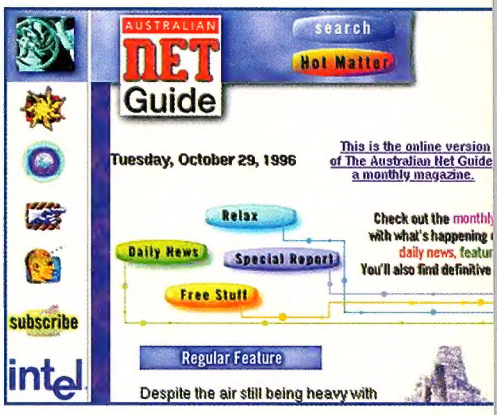
# Our *new site* for your surfing pleasure

**The *Australian Net Guide* has launched its new Web site, adding content that is both fun and informative.**




Not satisfied to let the online version of the *Australian Net Guide* (*ANG*) magazine rest, the *ANG* team has launched a new version of the site with expanded content.

As well as the content we had on the old site such as daily news, a regular feature, the monthly magazine and comment from the experts, we've added a range of new content.

This new content expands the Web site so that it is not only informative with the hottest computer and Internet news, but also fun, with easy access to interesting information online. The new sections include:

* **Relax** – in this section the *ANG's* Nicole Manktelow bring you the most unusual, useless and just plain odd Web sites.
* **Free Stuff** – in this section the *ANG's* David Mitchell brings you all the freebies and competitions on the Web he can find each week. By visiting this page you will have instant access to a wide list of competitions to enter and freebies to win.

* **Special Report** – on a regular basis the *ANG* team will delve into the depths of the latest hot topics.
* **and loads more...**

We have re-designed the site using frames to make navigation easier. With the navigation bar always on screen you can quickly go to your favourite sections. You'll also find the latest subscription offer – fill in the form to enter the 'offer of the month'. This month, go into the draw for a Super Nintendo Pack just by subscribing to the magazine (see more details on page 22).

Log on and have some fun at the new *Australian Net Guide* Web site, while staying in touch with the very latest news and happenings online. See you there! ■

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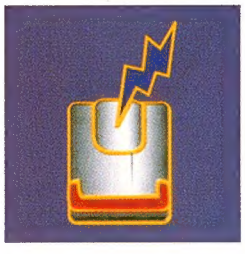

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Net Guide readers can win two world exclusive prizes – a limited edition Voodoo Lounge mouse mat signed by the Rolling Stones, and a fantastic, poster-sized lithograph, again signed by Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ron Wood.

Readers can also win one of 20 limited edition mouse mats designed for the Rolling Stones' latest Voodoo Lounge Web site launch and CD-ROM release.

The competitions mark the release of the Rolling Stones' New Voodoo Lounge interactive CD-ROM game. Mick and the boys invite you to join them onstage and backstage for their record-breaking world tour and see them perform never-before-seen acoustic jams.

To WIN one of these fabulous prizes see our Web site at ‹http://netguide.aust.com› and click on the Rolling Stones icon. Fill out the e-mail form provided and we'll put you in the draw to WIN.

For your chance to win some other amazing Stones memorabilia including an autographed Fender guitar, check out the Great Rolling Stones CD-ROM Cyberdraw at ‹http://www.hilad.www.com.au›.

**Look for the ActiveX icon on the *ANG* Web site for your FREE Microsoft ActiveX CD-ROM and the chance to WIN some other great Microsoft products.**

# Shockwave
## the edited highlights

The folk at Macromedia have been pretty busy lately, clinching deals and delivering the goods. Seeing the company's product, Shockwave, is such a popular browser plug-in, we thought we'd give you some edited highlights.

Shockwave for Audio goes live. While Shockwave for Audio allowed users to listen to good-quality streamed music, it catered only for the prerecorded variety. That is, until Macromedia's recent deal with Telos Systems. Now Shockwave is supported by Telos Audioactive which will enable live audio streaming via one plug-in.

Netscape is another company feeling warm and fuzzy about Shockwave, with the product set to become the core multimedia technology used in the browser range. Also included in the Macromedia-Netscape deal is Fireworks, Macromedia's Java-based content animation API.

The latest version of Freehand Graphics Studio is available, containing principal products Freehand 7, xRes 3 and Extreme 3D 2, as well as integrated 2D and 3D graphics tools for Shockwave, transparent GIF images and progressive JPEG, VRML and URL embedding.

To top it all off, CEO John 'Bud' Colligan joined users and press for a breakfast briefing ('Breakfast with Bud' in fact) in late October, demonstrating, among other things, the integration of the products in the new suite. **[NM] ›**

# Oracle's **Network Computing Architecture**

Veteran database specialist, Oracle, has announced its solution to the Internet standards war, with its Network Computing Architecture (CPA) and a focus on simple standards.

"The Internet has employed simple standards which have been adopted by the masses, but now Microsoft and Netscape are promoting their respective ActiveX and ONE technologies which are totally different standards and incompatible," said Mark Jarvis, vice president, Marketing Server Technologies at what was the company's first ever architecture announcement.

Oracle's Mark Jarvis

"The browser war has turned into a standards war, a middleware war, and this means businesses will have to make a choice."

To combat this situation, Oracle has developed Network Computing Architecture, a system where the traditional two-tiered client/server mechanism of the Net will have a third component. Between the universal client (which could be a Network Computer, Web browser, a television, or phone) and the server, is an application layer. This application layer will contain what Oracle is calling 'cartridges' – software contained in protective 'wrappers' allowing any program to run in any environment without risk.

Cartridges will be used for specific purposes including electronic commerce and publishing. Currently, 170 companies are building cartridges, with Oracle looking for interest from the Australian developer scene.

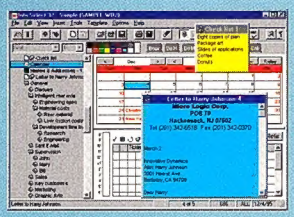
"By tying it all together we will transcend the standards war and answer a question facing many businesses, which is, 'how do we integrate with existing and legacy systems?'"

According to Jarvis, there's a method to Oracle's architecture madness. "The way you succeed in selling databases is you build an infrastructure that will allow as many people as possible to access them.

"We're very good at one thing, and that is moving large amounts of data and delivering it across a network to a large amount of users. This sounds a lot like the Internet, so we think that the Internet is about to come into our back yard."

Network Computing Architecture is already being implemented by some customers, said Jarvis, however he expects it will be three years before NCA becomes commonplace. **[NM]**


# A NEW WAY TO DEAL WITH INFORMATION



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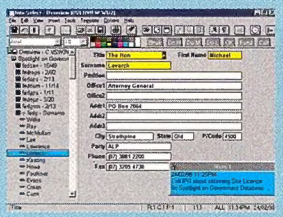

"It is probably the one essential piece of software I have at the school. I have no hesitation in recommending both the software and your company to any person who is required to manage large amounts of information." Peter Adams Principal, Bulla Primary School

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## Who owns your Web site?

If your company or organisation has sub-contracted the design and content creation of a Web site to an outside source, who actually owns it? You should not assume your company has the legal right to use, adapt and reproduce the text, video, audio, graphics and other material displayed in the pages, warns Brisbane lawyer Jeremy Charlston.

Charlston, a telecommunications, technology and intellectual property partner with national law firm Clayton Utz, says the general rule is that the person who creates the material owns the copyright to that material unless the company has a contract saying otherwise.

In addition, companies should always ascertain if the layout design of its site has been used before and ensure the developer won't use the same layout when designing sites for the company's competitors, says Charlston. **[LH]**

## The FAQs of life

**The *Electronic Frontier Australia's Women's Committee* has launched the EFA-women mailing lists FAQ at ‹http://www.efa.org.au/Issues/Women/efawfaq1.html›. The FAQ contains advice for women newbies and links to sites of interest.**

## Black Sun's Snow Crash Reality

Readers of Neal Stephenson's 1992 novel, *Snow Crash*, will be familiar with The Black Sun, the company that created the virtual world technology of the 'Metaverse'. Well, Black Sun is here and now, and it has started beta testing its tools for the Metaverse. In what could be a taste of the future in Web navigation, IRC chat and database retrieval, Black Sun's CyberGate is an extended, stand alone VRML browser which also supports interaction through personal 3D avatars and IRC chat.

One site already up and running with a CyberGate world is the Lycos PointCom site (http://www.pointcom.com). With a touch of *Lawnmower Man* and *Disclosure* deja vu, users can query the PointCom database, all from within the world of the CyberHub VRML server.

Windows 95 and Windows NT users can download the latest beta release of CyberGate (or the Netscape Navigator plug-in, CyberHub client) named from Black Sun's home page (http://ww3.blacksun.com). **[Robert Kirwan]**

**Interested in 3D worlds? Look for our avatar feature in the February 97 issue of ANG. ›**


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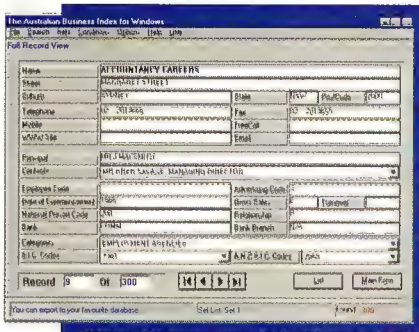

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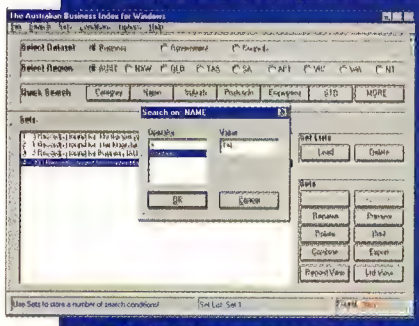
- Employee Size Code (over 250,000)
- Advertising Code
- Directory
- STD Code

*(Note: All non-numeric fields can also be searched using a "containing" function. eg: Ability to find all companies that contain the word Association or Pty Ltd)*



*An exclusive feature of the database is the inclusion of a comprehensive profile of more than 28,000 Australian companies. Containing the following key details in addition to the above basic data:*

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# Win a multimedia scholarship

**Three Australian graphic designers attended the SIGGRAPH 96 conference in New Orleans recently under a scholarship program established by the Australian Multimedia Enterprise (AME).**

**Adam Bras of Blue Tongue Multimedia, Felix Hude of Felix Global Animation and Peter Hennessey of Drome Pty Ltd – all from Melbourne – gained valuable exposure to overseas trends and production expertise, and made international contacts at the Special Interest Group Graphics (SIGGRAPH) conference.**

**AME will soon be calling for writers, interactive designers and game makers wanting to attend relevant conferences under the scholarship program. Good luck! [LH]**

## Rent a Web site

Lotus has extended its Domino.Apps technology which makes it simple for organisations without the technical expertise or infrastructure to build their own Web sites and applications.

The first two Domino Service Provider Applications (Domino SPA) will enable users to create their own business Web site with templates for job postings, FAQ pages and products and services. The products will also enable service providers to offer Web site services to customers who do not wish to register and host their own site. New functions on offer will range from providing Web site set up services for customers, to extending ISP billing functions to charge rent for new user Web sites. **[LH]** ›

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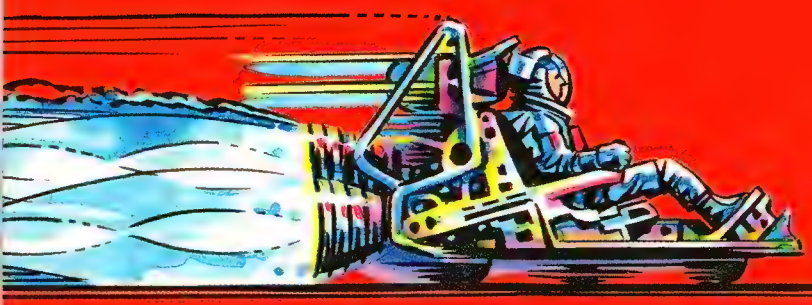

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# Netscape's new strategy

Netscape has revealed a new line of client/server software solutions that will allow users to create and publish documents, share information and communicate with others via intranets and the Internet across organisational and geographic boundaries.

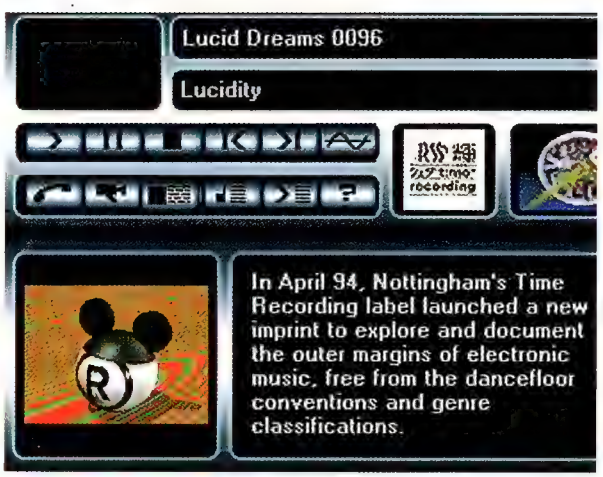
The aim of Netscape's new strategy is to position the company as a technology leader and capture more than 50 per cent of the exploding intranet market. Forrester Research Inc estimates this market will be worth $US10 billion by the year 2000.

According to Netscape, an International Data Corporation study has revealed that Netscape's intranet customers are realising a return on investment of more than 1,000 per cent in a payback period of less than three months.

Some of the new strategic products released include Netscape Communicator and Netscape SuiteSpot 3.0. The company has also announced a comprehensive strategy to 'embrace and integrate' Microsoft platforms and technology so that Netscape software works seamlessly with MS products such as Microsoft Windows, Office and BackOffice. **[LH]**

## Sausage goes Open Market

**Sausage Software will integrate Open Market's OM-SecureLink commerce-enabling technology into its recently released HotDog Web Editor. This will make it possible for users to commerce-enable their Web pages directly from within HotDog's Web page authoring environment in a single step. For more information visit the Sausage Software site or the Open Market site. See ‹http://www.sausage.com.au› or ‹http://www.openmarket.com›. [JH]**




## What Web porno?

*ANG* received a call from a rather annoyed parent recently regarding one of the sites we listed in our Readers' Choice SiteSeeing Guide.

Mrs X left her 13-year-old son Web browsing one morning, headed firmly in the direction of the Cyber Jukebox. When she returned she found him happily pointing and clicking away, but to her dismay the site in question had changed somewhat – into a soft porn magazine, with one article touting Sydney's best brothels, no less!

All sites submitted for inclusion in the Readers' Choice SiteSeeing guides are checked for accuracy, as are all sites mentioned. It is unusual for a site's owner to change the content this dramatically after submission, but we can only speculate on the reasons.

By its very nature, the Web is in a state of constant change. We might review a site one day, which could be changed or removed by its owner the day after. There is little we can do about this. We check every site listed in the magazine as close to going to press as possible – it's the relentless toil of a dead tree version of a Net mag. We'll continue to strive to keep things up-to-date, but in the meantime, Cyber Jukebox's new home is just hop, skip and jump from 'Lovenet' magazine at ‹http://www.lovenet.com.au/juke.htm›. ›

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## Self help is only a modem away

Netpsych offers users a level of understanding and self help only a computer can give. At the Netpsych site, visitors can purchase programs dealing with a number of topics, mostly alcohol related, including Someone Else's Drinking, Stop Drinking, Control Your Drinking and Starting to Drink. Netpsych offers convenience and confidentiality as well as complementary e-mail and mailing list support. The programs come in the form of electronic books (Windows and Mac compatible) and cost $29.95. They can be purchased online or by cheque or money order. See ‹http://www.netpsych.net.au›. **[NM]**

## Microsoft's Free Web Publishing Wizard

Microsoft has released the Web Publishing Wizard 1.0a (WPW) at their free download site (http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload).

WPW, available for Windows 95 and Windows NT, enables users to easily post Web pages to their Web or Intranet site. The Wizard connects to the Internet Service Provider (ISP), determines the protocol needed to copy the files, and uploads the files to the appropriate directory on the ISP's computer. WFW will post files or directories to any ISP's Web servers running NCSA's HTTPD, APACHE Web Server or any other standard Web servers installed with the default configuration and running the FTP protocol.

A Webpost Software Development Kit (SDK), included in the ActiveX SDK, has also been made available at the Microsoft Web site (http://www.microsoft.com/intdev). With the Webpost SDK and Webpost API, software developers can include one-button publish functionality to their applications. **[RK]**

## Viruses we would like to see

- The Ita Buttrose virus which causes your machine to lisp.
- The John Howard virus which tells you it won't do anything, then formats your hard disk.
- The Peter Costello virus which sells off part of your hard disk without asking.
- The Telstra virus which puts a '9' in front of everything.
- The Austel virus which keeps telling you why the Telstra virus is putting a '9' in front of everything.
- The Pauline Hanson virus which keeps complaining that it hasn't got enough memory.
- The Microsoft virus which tells you your hard disk is going to crash and then waits six months to crash it.
- The Apple virus which infects you but you love it anyway.
- The Jeff Kennett virus which only attacks your system when other viruses are already attacking it, and then takes over.
- The Bob Carr virus which bores your system until it shuts down in self defense.
- The Olympics virus which is fatal to all senior executives.

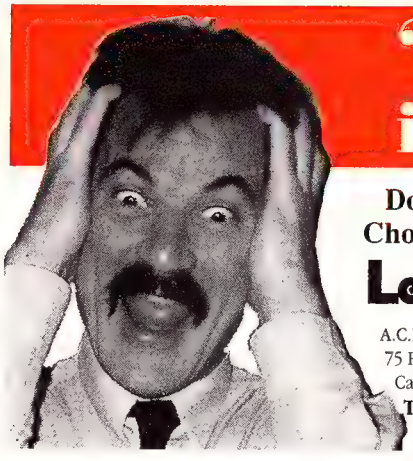
## Melbourne IT takes over com.au

A new company, Melbourne IT, has taken control of the process of allocating domain names ending with com.au.

Melbourne IT is a subsidiary of Melbourne University and has been set up to take over the task from the current volunteer. All organisations and individuals with existing com.au domains will need to reapply for registration before 1 February, 1997 or risk losing their domain name.

Registration will cost $125 per year, but the new company is promising an end to delays and a more liberal naming regime.

The decision to change the system of com.au domain name registration was taken by the Internet Industry Association of Australia (INTIAA) in Melbourne. **[JH]**

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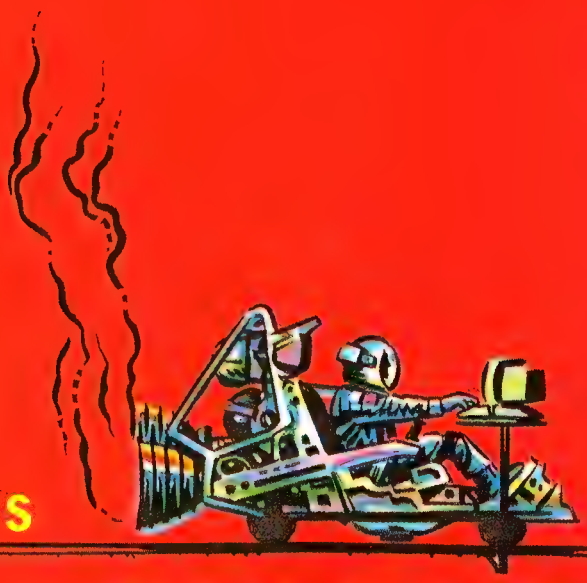

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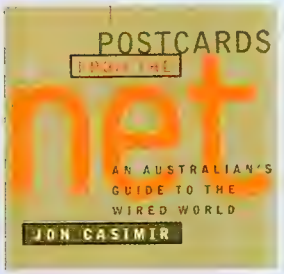



## Postcards from the Net

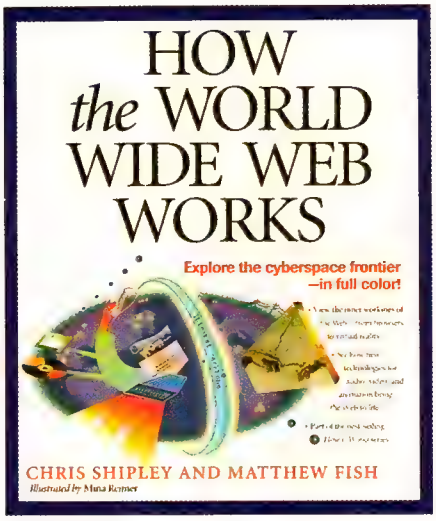
- Allen & Unwin
- Jon Casimir
- rrp: $19.95

Those familiar with the pop culture and technology writings of *The Sydney Morning Herald's* Jon Casimir (particular his DriftNet column) will enjoy this book. Aimed primarily at newbies, his musings offer an insight into the rich cyberculture that exists online.

Unlike a lot of the other texts about this amazing thing called 'The Internet', this book is not about getting connected, configuring your software or using your browser more effectively.

He does more than simply list sites and what you will find there, placing more emphasis on the social aspects of the Net. Casimir is your friendly guide to cyberspace, steering clear of the boring old corporate sites, ducking and weaving his way around issues and topics such as censorship, pornography, fame, celebrities, conspiracy theories, urban legends and the weird and wacky. There is a more comprehensive listing of sites in the back of the book under various headings such as cartoons, comics, favourite e-zines and cool film sites.

If you read Casimir's DriftNet column in *The Herald* each week, it may be worth your while to flick through this book before you hand over your cash. Although there doesn't seem to be any indication on the jacket that says this is a collection of his columns (at least I couldn't find any and I looked pretty hard), I did notice a couple of entries I had read before in *The Herald*. **[LH]**




## How the World Wide Web Works

- Ziff-Davis Press (Prentice Hall Australia)
- Chris Shipley and Matthew Fish
- rrp: $54.95

Although it isn't crucial to know how the Web actually works, an understanding of it will make you appreciate the scope and potential of the technology.

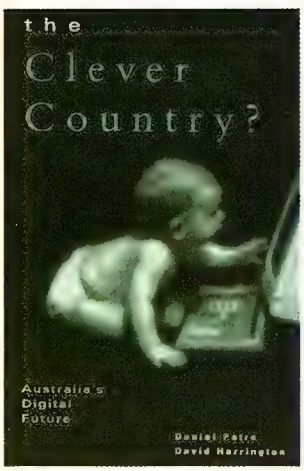
What sets this series apart from other books about the Web is its unique, highly graphical style. Not your usual quarter-page diagram here. Double-page spreads accompanied by one or two pages of text provide welcome relief from the dense, text-laden tomes that are making your bookshelves creak in protest.

After an overview, the authors cut to the chase with 'the anatomy of a Web connection', and quickly move onto common protocols, HTML and the role of various computers in the transfer of information over the Web. They cover streaming audio, Shockwave, Java, IRC, Net telephony, video conferencing and virtual reality. Other areas and applications, such as online shopping, firewalls and intranets are also explained.

I already own two other texts from this How It Works series. They are great for readers just learning about the Net because although there is some depth to the explanations, you won't suffer from information overload. This book would also be useful for someone with a bit of computer experience and knowledge who is still a bit hazy on how Net technologies work together. **[by Linda Hopkins]**

## The Clever Country? Australia's Digital Future

- Lansdowne Publishing (Pan Macmillan)
- by Daniel Petre and David Harrington
- rrp: $19.95




There are plenty of these types of books around, but not too are many written from an Australian perspective.

Economies are becoming more information based and the industrial cycle is shrinking – change that once took place over 12 years is now taking 12 months. Our position as an English-speaking nation with one of the fastest roll-outs of broadband cable in the world means we'll be presented with some unique opportunities in the next few years.

The authors point out how the digitisation of information will influence almost every facet of our lives including our workplace infrastructure, environment and schedules, and suggest what skills we'll need to develop to cope with the changes. They believe the ability to manage, manipulate and analyse data will be crucial.

Although I was a little wary upon learning both authors work (or worked) for a major software company, the connections made here are thought-provoking and considered as they attempt to answer some of the tougher questions. Will Australians have good jobs in the future? Is Australian government ready for digital democracy? Will computers replace teachers? How will we preserve our national identity in a digital world?

This book will be an interesting read for any Australian wanting to know about the impending changes to how we are entertained, informed, employed, brought up and educated. **[LH]** ■

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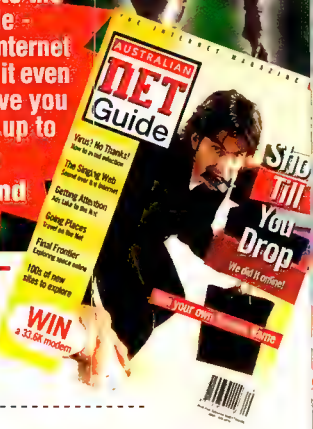


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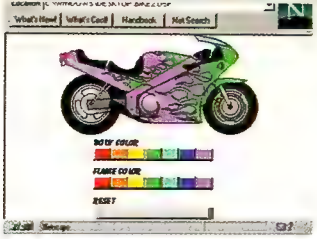


# Making an impact

PhotoImpact is a photo editing and image manipulation software package that includes WebExtensions; utilities for Web graphics and special effects.

It looks very similar to just about every other image editing program for PCs. It includes all the basic graphic tools and features but, arguably, the software's best feature is all its little features.

The HTML Image Assistant allows users to check the background, text and link colours. You can see what the colour settings you have chosen will look like on your Web page, or choose colours directly from the colour palette. The Assistant also lets users check file size and properties of images.

The Background Designer is able to produce light and pastel background graphics. Select colour range, pattern size and hue of the background tiles and it's done.

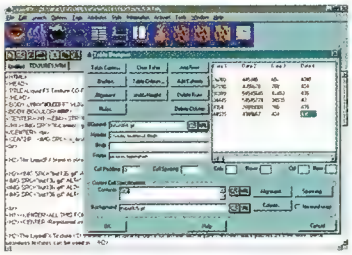
Another effect is the Frame Maker which makes creating a pattern, image or colour frame simple. Frames can be produced from around 200 stock images. You can also specify the transparency of drop shadow and how blurred you want the edges to be. Other features include a Button Designer, a useful screen capture utility and a GIF animator. The latter is more complicated than Alchemy Mindworks' Gif Construction Set, but it does allow users to see the image and the construction file within the same workspace.

The Smartsavers for JPG and GIF files allow you to compare your existing image with how it will look when compressed, again, within the same workspace. From here, users can raise the compression levels and change the number of colours used.

PhotoImpact's swag of editing effects is impressive, including pinch, ripple, and a cool warping FX feature which allows you to move individual points on a grid.

PhotoImpact has a more serious way of doing things than Adobe Photo Deluxe, and is definitely for experienced users. It has more features than Paint Shop Pro which may make up for its lack of flexibility.

PhotoImpact is designed for use with Microsoft Office for Windows 95 and has an RRP of $195. **[NM]**



# Fluid effects

LiquidFX is another contender in an overflowing Web page authoring market aimed at users with HTML experience. Combining shortcuts for tags and tasks with special features (such as Java applets), LiquidFX requires little getting used to; it has an intuitive design with easy-to-use commands and features.

The program's best feature has to be its Frame Maker which is simple to use. Just specify the number of columns and rows, adjust the width and margins, and specify the URLs for the Web pages that are to appear in each frame.

LiquidFX features extra character sets which is something most other Web editing packages tend to overlook. The Web editor also has a stack of handy attribute tags which can be accessed from a pulldown menu. However, while focusing on HTML shortcuts the program has missed out on some rather basic editing functionalities such as 'undo'. LiquidFX comes ready to insert Java into a Web page, although the Java applets themselves are not as flexible as those available in other packages. LiquidFX also includes an animation maker, compiling-sounds and images frame by frame, as well as a Sprite feature for moving pictures around.

LiquidFX is a good tool for users with some HTML experience. LiquidFX is available for Windows 95 and has a RRP of $69. For more information, contact LiquidFX on (03) 9801 4104, or see ‹http://www.access.digex.net/~liquidfx›. **[NM]**

## NEW PRODUCTS

### SET TOP WEBBING

**Set-Top Industries has developed the world's first set-top device. The device is a personal computer, network server, Web browser and server, fax gateway and firewall –all rolled into the one unit. The company has both a home and business version of the product. Users will pay a small set up charge and an ongoing rate which will include Internet access costs.**

**http://www.set-top.net**

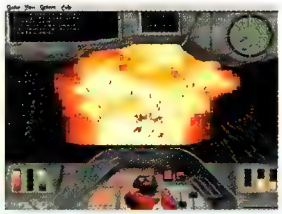
### MONSTER GRAPHICS

**The Diamond 3D Graphics Accelerator Subsystem, or Monster 3D, is now available. The Monster 3D card is based on the 3Dfx Interactive Voodoo Graphics technology a 3D-only pass-through graphics subsystem. Users will get high frames rates for 3D games. The card will also work with existing 2D graphics accelerators. For more information, contact Chips and Bits on (03) 9696 1911.**

### QUICKSILVER THE 2ND

**ABC QuickSilver Pack 2 from Micrografx is now available. Pack 2 allows users to create cool graphics for Web pages. It now includes progressive vector smoothing, support for Netscape's LiveConnect and Netscape ONE technology and ABC Web charter. The ABC QuickSilver Pack 2 can be downloaded free at the Micrografx Web site or in CD-ROM format for $19.95. Call 1-800 805 337.**

**http://www.micrografx.com**



### GAMES FROM MICROSOFT

**Microsoft has released four CD-ROM titles originally intended for the holiday period. Microsoft Deadly Tide, Hellbender, Monster Truck Madness and NBA Full Court Press promise to deliver action, realistic graphics and multiplayer options, all for $79 each.**

http://www.microsoft.com/games

### COMPUTER COMMUTER

**For 'on the road' users, McAfee Commuter is a suite of applications for combining (among other things) virus protection, e-mail, organiser and per-**

# A Band Aid solution

First Aid 95 Deluxe is the modern-day version of what was an excellent Windows 3.1 application, dedicated to stopping Windows general protection faults (GPF) and system crashes.

In attempting to tackle Windows 95, the program has collected a range of other abilities, including checking modems, sound cards and network connections. However, this is not a product for serious hardware maintenance or performance testing. Instead, First Aid 95 Deluxe continues to tune PCs by checking settings, parameters and the infamous Windows 95 registry.

When installing the product, it takes a snapshot of the computer's configuration settings, and compares configuration settings throughout its time on your PC as one way of providing its safety net duties. It also asks whether the user has e-mail, but refers only to a LAN e-mail system, such as Microsoft Mail or CC Mail. Average Internet users should not be alarmed as the program's features in testing this area of your machine are quite limited anyway, looking only for US-based online services such as CompuServe and Prodigy, and testing your modem.

Once installed, the program's Crash Protector and Guardian features run silently in the background (which slowed my machine only slightly). The Crash protector is designed to intercept system crashes and GPFs, while the Guardian pops up when there is a problem with a program (say when

Windows 95 closes down Netscape for performing an illegal function). Both of these features can be disabled if desired (particularly if installing new software), in which case the machine has to be restarted.

First Aid 95 Deluxe goes through the hard drive of a machine, looking for applications. Once detected, First Aid can then scan the application, looking for files that should be associated with it, but may not be there. This tool has the potential to be very useful. After all your applications have been detected, however, it's not infallible. For example, I had a few fragments of older versions of Netscape and Paint Shop Pro, which it detected. To rectify this, First Aid allows users to add programs to its database (after which I had no problems scanning the programs in question).

First Aid's Fix Multimedia option is quite limited. It can try to Autodetect a sound card and then see if it's optimised, but, if it cannot detect anything other than a generic card, you have to select the card from the list. Similarly, the program offers to fix your online connections and your network settings, but its ability to do so is limited.

Possibly the best feature of First Aid 95 Deluxe is one that has long been with the product – being able to read a plain English translation of the Windows-speak errors and simply click Autofix. Having never elected to install the office binder and other accessories in Microsoft Office, I was surprised to find that settings relating to these were found by First Aid 95 Deluxe and were fixed very easily, as were shortcuts to long deleted programs.

Overall, First Aid 95 Deluxe performs adequately for the range of features its manufactures give it. Its best feature is the Guardian, which excels in fixing problems as they arise. The package is also not too shabby at cleaning up software leftovers and fragments. It is not, however, the ultimate panacea for your system, since many of its other features seem to have been added-on to what was, and still is, a good product.

First Aid 95 Deluxe is available at most software retailers and has a RRP of $79.95. **[NM]**

**sonal contact management tools. The package is available at retail outlets for a RRP of $140.**

**http://www.mcafee.com.au**

### 32-BIT TCP/IP

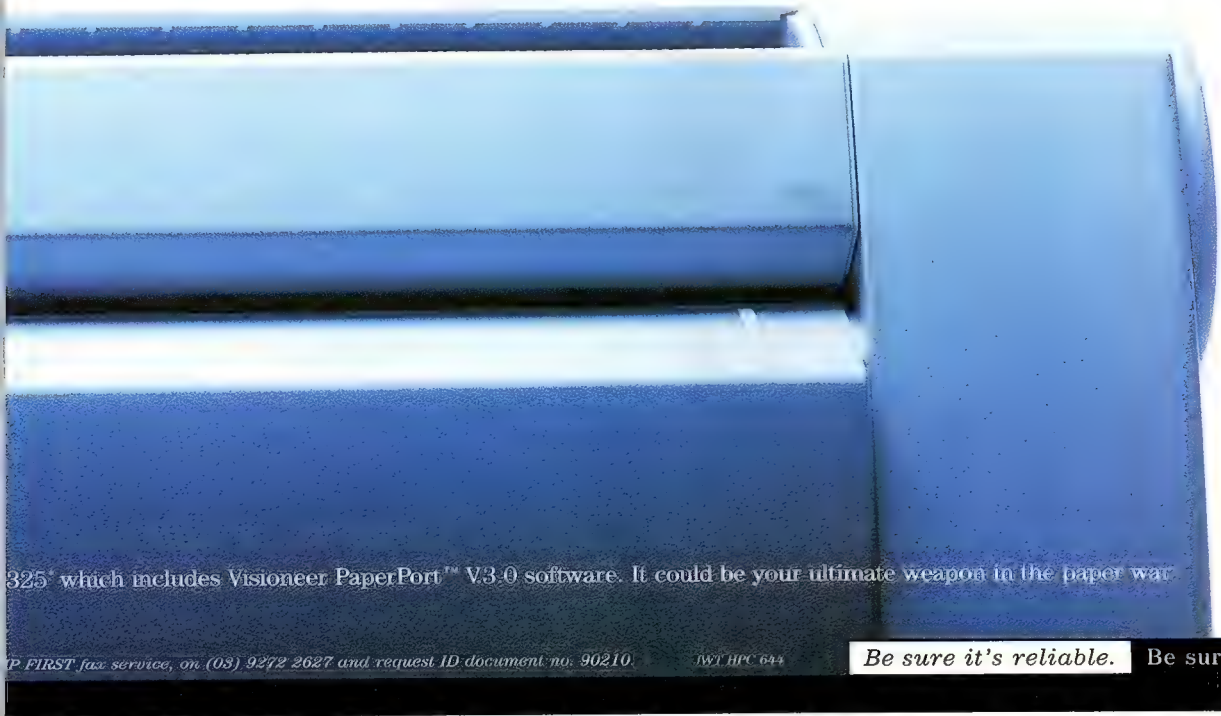
**Reflection Suite for TCP version 6.5 provides connectivity tools for creating corporate intranets. The product will allow users to access applications for UNIX, Digital, mainframe and AS400 from their PCs. For more information, contact Megatec on 1-800 806 563.**

### ETHERBOY

**Etherboy is the world's first network monitoring and management product that features a graphical interface. The utility is priced at $595.**

**http://www.ndg.com.au**

keeping? Stick it in here.



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CYBERSPACE 6-PM 14 DEC 1996 CYBERSPACE



**Date: Wed, 2 Oct 1996 12:40:03 +1000 (EST)**

**From: imack@ozemail.com.au**

**Subject: Great magazine**

**Dear ANG,**

I would like to say, as would many other thousands, that this is one hell of a great magazine.

It is by far the easiest of all the Internet magazines to read, but at the same time you keep all the technical jargon in the reports so when we do venture out into the unknown we still know what we are doing.

The best thing about the magazine is the way it is designed and set out – it is so easy to refer back to something when you have to.

Great work and keep it up,

**Scott Mackenzie**

http://www.ozemail.com.au/~imack

**Date: Sat, 28 Sep 1996 20:33:41 -0700**

**From: Daniel Cook ‹kiza@ozemail.com.au›**

**Subject: Article for ANG**

**Dear NetEd,**

How about doing an article on how to advertise your Web Page once you get it up and running? I'm sure many people would find it useful.

**Daniel Cook**

*You should find what you want in this issue!* ***NetEd***

**Date: Wed, 23 Oct 1996 12:03:42 +1100**

**From: John Carbines ‹sailboat@ozemail.com.au›**

**Subject: Further comments on your promotions**

**Dear NetEd,**

What options do your existing valued customers have with regard to the 'subscribe' promotions which offer a chance to win a Digital Camera or the Domain Name? Do we have to pay now for next year's subscription to be eligible ?

Why not a draw from existing patrons for a prize or two as a sort of reward whilst also encouraging new subscribers? To be fair, the 10 hours of OzEmail time (worth $25 to $50) I got as an encouragement to subscribe pales a bit when compared to $900 worth of digital camera or a very useful $200 worth of Domain Name.

Cheers,

**John Carbines**

Sail Boat Software

*We are addressing this situation by conducting reader offers such as the Microsoft ActiveX giveaway last month and the Rolling Stone reader offer this month. However, we will continue to conduct our subscription offers as normal as it is both a legitimate and successful marketing exercise. Lastly, all our subscribers receive a substantial discount on the newsstand prices.* ***NetEd***

**Date: Sun, 6 Oct 1996 18:56:16 +1100 (EST)**

**From: John Bussey ‹quambybooks@vision.net.au›**

**Subject: Modem article feedback**

**Dear NetEd,**

Useful article on modems in latest mag. Except... the two advertisers I tried have Buckley's chance of getting an order from me.

Netcomm's 'form' wouldn't work and there appears to be no simple e-mail contact, so after 5 fruitless and wasted minutes I went to Modemware/Modem Superstore. I *hate* Web sites that do not provide "alt=" designations for graphics. As a result, their slow site turned me off there too.

As I remember seeing somewhere in one of your articles, if the customer can't get at the product/service without having the product/service – what's the point?

**J.Bussey**

Editor

Quamby Books

**Date: Sun, 6 Oct 1996 11:12:44 +0800**

**From: Adrian Morgan ‹adrian@argo.net.au›**

**Subject: Downloaded programs**

**hya,**

I have a gripe. Recently, my hard drive crashed, and I mean really *crashed*. Smart little me had backups of everything, except programs downloaded off the Net. Why? Because even if I zipped some of them up with 100 per cent compression, some of the files still wouldn't fit on a floppy disk. But that's not the worst part. Even though you do the right thing and pay for a downloaded program, the company concerned won't or can't be bothered to post you an original via snail mail.

Get it together guys. We paid for it just like the guy who walked into the shop. Where's our copy on disk?

cya,

**Adrian**

The WA Road Trauma Site ‹http://argo.net.au/adrian›

**Date: Tue, 8 Oct 1996 10:47:14 +1000 (EST)**

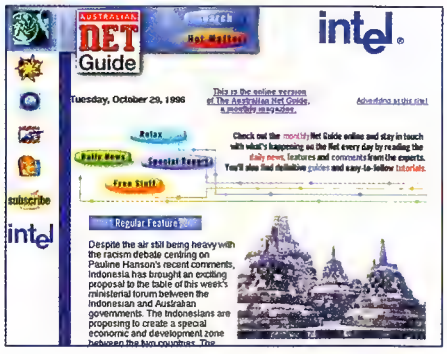
**Subject: Stupid people**

**Hi.**

After looking through the May issue of your magazine, I just wanted to make a point which I know has been made before, but not enough times. I was particularly interested in your article on Web page designers (entitled 'Designing for the World') as I (15) and my friend (14) are currently entering this profession.

My first criticism is that the technologies listed below the title does not include VRML. It concerns me that people don't seem to realise the potential of VRML. This point is enforced by the responses of each of the designers interviewed.
Most of them ranked Java as the 'hottest' technology. I think Java only really gets exciting when combined with other technologies such as Shockwave, and particularly VRML. With the release of VRML 2.0 on August 4, many software vendors are just coming out of beta testing with VRML 2.0 browsers. VRML 2.0 can be controlled by both Java and JavaScript. It allows for animation and audio (that actually gets softer as you move away from its source) and video. It also takes several steps towards a multi-user environment and is far more interactive by allowing touch sensors, time sensors, proximity sensors etc.
While people have become more aware of VRML because of Live3D being bundled with Netscape 3.0, it is still one of the most underrated technologies around.
One other small complaint is a mistake on page 75 (second last paragraph). VRML is in fact a modelling language, not a markup language as this paragraph suggests.
Good mag, but you should add a response to more of your letters rather than just printing them.
**No name supplied**

**Date: Tue, 22 Oct 1996 19:54:41 +1100**
**From: Vatche Demirjian ‹vatche@oze-mail.com.au›**
**Subject: Love your new site!**
**Dear NetEd,**
Congrats on your new site design... much, much better.
**Vatche Demirjian**
ArmenSoft Design




**Date: Fri, 27 Sep 1996 08:56:20 GMT**
**From: mfisher@ozemail.com.au (Mike Fisher)**
**Subject: Netscape Bookmarks File**
**Dear Jeremy,**
Your recent article on Netscape Bookmarks could well be followed up with this handy hint:
Load Netscape. Use *File>Open File* to open your bookmark file (bookmark.htm in the Netscape Directory).
Click on the URL shown in the Location box at the top of Netscape's window which should select/highlight it. Press *CONTROL C* to copy it. (If there is no such box, turn it on via *Options>Show Locations*.)
In *Options>General Preferences>Appearance*, select *Home Page Location* in the *Startup* section, click on the box for the URL and press *Control V*. (If the URL box already has an entry, make a note of it, then delete it).
This will copy the source of your Bookmark file and will have the effect of displaying your Bookmark file in browser format as soon as Netscape is loaded. (Bookmarks added in one session are not displayed until Netscape is re-started).
Then click on *Options>Save Options*.
As an alternative, type the source in yourself in the format file:///C|/netscape/bookmark.htm (the C followed by the pipe character is the letter of the appropriate hard drive and the full directory path to Netscape follows. For newbies, note the forward slashes.)
Works with Netscape 2+, but previous versions tend to overwrite/delete bookmark.htm.
Congratulations on a fine magazine.
Regards,
**Mike Fisher**

*Thanks for the tip!* ***NetEd***

**Date: Sat, 26 Oct 1996 00:24:32 +1000**
**From: davecody@whitehorse.com.au (Dave Cody)**
**Subject: Magic Cookies and Privacy**
**Dear NetEd,**
I recently read in another magazine (WebMaster, November 1996) about 'cookie files', which come as part of Netscape Navigator and also, I believe, Internet Explorer.
Cookie files are used, as I understand it, as a means of tracking where I've been while surfing the Net. As such, I am of the opinion that they constitute a rather severe breach of privacy! What's worse, they work invisibly without my even knowing it.
The only saving grace of a cookie file is that it can (supposedly) only be read by the server which originally gave me the cookie file, and its contents are only read when I go back to that server. The article I read suggested, however, that the encryption of cookie files is a simple matter to crack. I am greatly concerned about cookie files and exactly what they do, and what they relate about my travels.
How does one pick them up? How do I set Navigator so that I will be alerted whenever there is a request for a cookie file? How do I get rid of my cookie file, and will this mean Navigator won't run?
I would really appreciate it if you could publish an article about cookie files explaining what they do, and what implications they have for the average Web Surfer.
Yours sincerely,
**Dave Cody**

*Cookies are not all bad, although they are open to abuse. Because TCP/IP is a stateless protocol, every time you access a page from a Web server, you are setting up a new session. The Web server does not know anything about the history of your interaction with that server. Cookie files overcome that problem. An example will make this clear: if you log in to a site, the only way that site can keep track of you is with a cookie. So without the cookie you would have* ›

# 5 people SHARE ONE Internet connection

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iShare INTERNET GATEWAY

› *to give your password for every page you access. If you are using Netscape Navigator, you will find the options to set an alert for cookies under Options>Network Preferences>Protocols. This will give you the option to not accept the cookie. In Internet Explorer under Options>Advanced, there is a tick box in the top third of the dialog box that lets you control cookies.* ***NetEd***

NEW!

**Date: Thu, 03 Oct 1996 12:11:28 +1000**

**From: Steve Small‹ssmall@tpgi.com.au›**

**Subject: NetGuide Content inaccuracies**

**Hi guys,**

I know that print deadlines mean material is composed some time prior to printing and distribution, but REALLY!

Over 50 per cent of those sites reviewed aren't to be found or are bogus addresses. My job requires attention to accuracy as I am sure does yours, so how about a bit more effort on your part? The site reviews are the main reason I read the mag. At most of the sites I went to, I had to go back a bit in the address and search from there.

I am a great believer in feedback good and bad so; I rate you a seven on appearance and content, but only a three on accuracy.

Keep trying.

Regards,

**Steve Small**

*Although the URLs are accurate as far as we know when the magazine goes to press, addresses do change without notice. This is the nature of the Web – it's not a static medium. Trimming back the URL, as you have done, is one way to combat this. Once you get to a main index, you should be able to find your way to the pages we mention.* ***NetEd***

**Date: Thu, 24 Oct 1996 18:16:26 +1000**

**From: "Paul Chapman" ‹paul4deb@break.com.au›**

**Subject: Eudora Pro!$$$ What about Pegasus?**

**Dear NetEd,**

Thanks for the great magazine.

In response to Fasik Liang's ‹fasik@o-tay.com› question: 'Is there any e-mail program around which allows me to direct where my incoming mail goes?' You suggested Eudora Pro. If you have $100 or so to spare, that may be an option, but a totally FREE solution would be Pegasus Mail for Windows (v2.42 for Win3.x – 32-bit version also available.)

Pegasus's power is equivalent to that of Eudora Pro and in some respects surpasses it. Creating a filter to sort incoming mail is as simple as a few mouse clicks. Not only that, but it also supports plug-ins (extensions), one of which enables you to configure multiple POP/SMTP servers for sending and accessing e-mail without having to shut down the program, or (as is the case with Eudora Lite) without having to reconfigure your e-mail settings every time you access a different e-mail server from the last one.

Regards,

**Paul Chapman**

FTP site for Pegasus at ‹ftp.risc.ua.edu/pub/network/pegasus› or ‹ftp.mira.net.au/mirrors/winsock-l/mail›.

*This is handy information. I will take a look at Pegasus Mail.* ***NetEd*** ■

**NetEd**

If you'd like to write to us, you can do so via e-mail: ‹neted@netguide.aust.com› or via our postal address: Unit 22, 39 Herbert St, St Leonards, NSW 2065.

CDOT AUSTRALIA
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**VALUED AT $2,990 EACH**

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To celebrate the release of the new Dance Pool CDs Hammered Clubbed To Death, Strictly Euro-dance and Underworld, we are giving away a huge range of fabulous prizes, including Two Arrow Computers complete with internal modem and CD Rom valued at $2,990 each.
A Sony PlayStation with new release Motor Toon Grand Prix 2 from Sony Computer Entertainment plus 100 copies of the Australian Net Guide magazine.
There are also 25 copies of the book, Australian Beginner's Guide to the Internet up for grabs.

ten

VIDEOHITS

DANCE POOL

# PRIZES

This competition is a game of skill

AUSTRALIAN NET Guide

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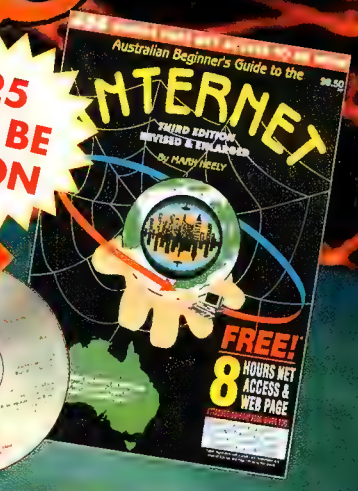


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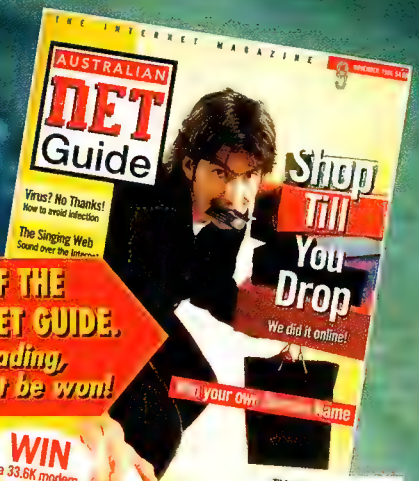
**IT'S EASY! CALL NOW**




**WIN A COPY OF THE AUSTRALIAN NET GUIDE.**
*Makes great reading, 100 copies must be won!*

**WIN** a 33.6K modem

## For your chance to WIN one of these fabulous prizes call

# 1900 155 210

*Calls are charged at the IDS rate of 75 cents per minute. Higher rates apply to mobile and pulic phones.*

## Just answer some simple questions and tell us in 25 words or less why you want to win

**Terms & conditions of entry 1.** Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. **2.** Entry is open to all Australian Residents. **3.** Directors, management, employees and their immediate families, their retailers, suppliers, associated companies and agencies of Cyber Publications Pty Ltd, Network 10, Sony Music, Sony Computer Entertainment, Hi Tech Computer Peripherals,IDS Pty Ltd & Crucial Records Pty Ltd are not eligible to participate. **4.** Competition is open 24 hours a day between 30 November 1996 & 22 December 1996. **5.** Participants are required to correctly answer a series of questions relating to the promotion and must say in 25 words or less why they want to win. Participants may enter as often as they like. **6.** Call service is provided by IDS Pty Ltd, callers under 16 years of age must obtain parental permission to call. **7.** Prizes will be decided by IDS Pty Ltd at their premises: 61 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria NSW 2015 on 23 December 1996 & their decision will be final. **8.** All prize winners will be notified by mail or telephone by 10 January 1997, and major prize winners will be announced on Video Hits. **9.** All prizes unless consisting of cash, will not be redeemable for cash and prizes are not transferable. **10.** Prizes to be issued are as follows: two Arrow computers valued at $2,990 each, one Sony PlayStation plus Motor Toon Grand Prix, total value $498.95, 100 Copies of Australian Net Guide magazine total value $495.00 & 25 Copies of the Australian Beginners Guide to the Internet, total value $248.75. Grand prize total $7,222.70 **11.** The promoter is Crucial Records Pty Ltd ACN 073 059 051.

# Phone *home* for Christmas

Net telephony has boffins tweaking their sound cards and Telstra executives on the run – even more so now that users can connect to a normal phone from their PC for a fraction of the cost of a standard call. But how easy is it to make a phone call over the Net? And is it worth the savings? *ANG's* **Nicole Manktelow** decided to test out the technology and rack up a few personal calls so things will run smoothly when she phones home for Christmas.

Sound quality aside, the main drawback of Net telephony products has been that they required both parties to download and set up software, and be online at the same time. This is fine if all your mates are computer junkies, but not so great for calling the rellies.

Net2Phone is a service that connects Internet users with the standard telephone systems in different countries. Its main advantage over other forms of Net telephony is that only the caller has to have an Internet connection and the software running – all the recipient needs to do is pick up their phone.

The Net2Phone software is free, and all users need to do is purchase a debit card for the service (a serial number) to the value of $US25, $50 or $100 by using their credit card. Calls are charged at various rates, starting at 10 (US) cents per minute. The charges are worked out as though every user is calling from within the US, so calling the States is the cheapest option. The charges for different countries are easily accessible at the Net2Phone Web site. European calls range from between 20 and 40 (US) cents per minute and calling anywhere in Australia costs 20 (US) cents per minute. As you can see, the prices are competitive, although as you would expect, sound quality and performance are not up to telco standard.

## PHONETESTING

Net2Phone is available for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95. At the time of writing there was also mention of a Mac version being developed by the company, but no estimated time of arrival. For this road test I used a computer connected to the Net via an ISDN link,

however, a 28.8 modem is sufficient.

Once downloaded and unzipped, the program doesn't appear to go through any installation process, it just runs when you click on the .exe file. Windows 95 users will have to manually add it to their desktop or Start menu.

To get a debit card, simply fill out a form at the Net2Phone site. (Getting the boss' credit card was not quite so easy, particularly after the shopping spree for last month's issue). Make sure you set the software first and check for the account number, (contained in the Net2Phone software, under the *View* menu), as this has to be included in the fax for them to give you a debit card number. You will receive this number via e-mail about 24 hours later.

## HELLO?

To use the service, I had to enter the number *99* and wait for the software to contact the Net2Phone server. The call was answered by a telephonist (a robot) who asked me to enter the number of my debit card.

Each time you start the Net2Phone application you must re-enter the debit card number and the number you want to call. The server robot then tells you how much the call will cost, and politely says it will connect you through, very much like a cyber version of an old-style telephonist.

We're often testing out all sorts of weird things at *ANG*, so I decided to call the *ANG* office number here in Australia to trial the service. At first I forgot to add the US code for international calls, that is, dial as though I was calling Australia from the US.

On the second attempt I followed the instruction sheet e-mailed to me more closely and added a *011* prefix and the area code for Australia which is *61*. When you dial a number the server works out the charge and tells you before you connect, which in this case was 20 (US) cents.

My computer started to make a ringing sound, and five seconds later the telephone in the office began to ring. We might have only been 3 metres away, but the call was going around the world.

The documentation recommends talking in half duplex mode which allows one person to speak at a time (much like two-way radio) and claims this is actually easier as you have more control over who speaks and when. It's not that different to the time delays you get when talking to people overseas phone-to-phone.

By hitting the button called *VOX* on the software interface we had control over when to speak and when to listen just by using the space bar, which is more successful than letting the software control it all.

Another tip for this system is that you should not hold your microphone too close or have the volume set up too high. At a medium volume, and with the microphone about 30 cm away I could be heard over the phone quite clearly with only the occasional gurgling. As for reception, the person receiving my call was also very clear and delayed by only a second or two.

## NEXT STOP: CANADA

Helen, an *ANG* colleague, was keen to test out the service because she has a friend in Canada.

There was a trick to getting the right number for Canada. We entered the country codes and found it wouldn't work. But when we left them out and just dialled the number

directly the experiment proved a success (must be something to do with the way Americans call their neighbours).

Once Damien picked up his phone there was some delay and it took a couple of minutes to establish the two-way effect, taking turns to let each person speak. They talked about the TV show he was watching at the time (it was 11pm at night there) and other interesting things.

The call ended rather unceremoniously when we thought he'd hung up, but in fact the display on the software came up with the message 'the telephone network is experiencing difficulties'. Oh well, it was a brief moment of success. Helen rated the call at a big 5/10 for clarity, although Damien said Helen was quite clear.

The call cost 13 US cents per minute which works out at about 17 cents Australian. As a comparison, Telstra charges a 12 cent connection fee and a peak rate of $1.39 per minute (9am-6pm, Monday to Friday), off-peak 91 cents per minute. Optus charges a 12 cent connection fee and a peak rate of $1.24 per minute (9am-6pm, Monday to Friday), off peak 84 cents per minute.

## CALLING SWEDEN (NO SWEDISH CHEF JOKES PLEASE!)

To really give the service a thorough thrashing I decided to get in touch with a long lost relative in Sweden. Just how closely related I am to Mariette Manktelow is something neither of us have quite worked out, but with a surname like ours we can't be too far removed.

The call to Sweden would cost me just 17 US cents a minute, which works out at about 21 cents Australian. As a comparison, Telstra's rates are; a 12 cent connection fee and $1.59 per minute peak, $1.19 off peak. Optus charges are similar with the same 12 cent connection fee, $1.47 per minute peak, and $1.10 per minute off peak.

The sound of the phone ringing sounded very different to our other experiments, and at first I thought there was a problem, so I tried the whole thing over again. Second time around I could hear that the phone had been answered, but not much else. Finally, after adjusting the volume a bit I could hear a tiny voice say,

"Hello, hello, can you hear me?"

"Yes, can you hear me Mariette?"

"Not really..."

We kept trying for a moment or two and then the connection seemed to correct itself. Mariette's soft voice became quite clear, and I could even discern a few background noises. We talked about how the call was made, time zones (oops, sorry), what we were doing that day, and other stuff.

The verdict?

"You're fairly clear, but you sound a bit like a robot at times!" ■

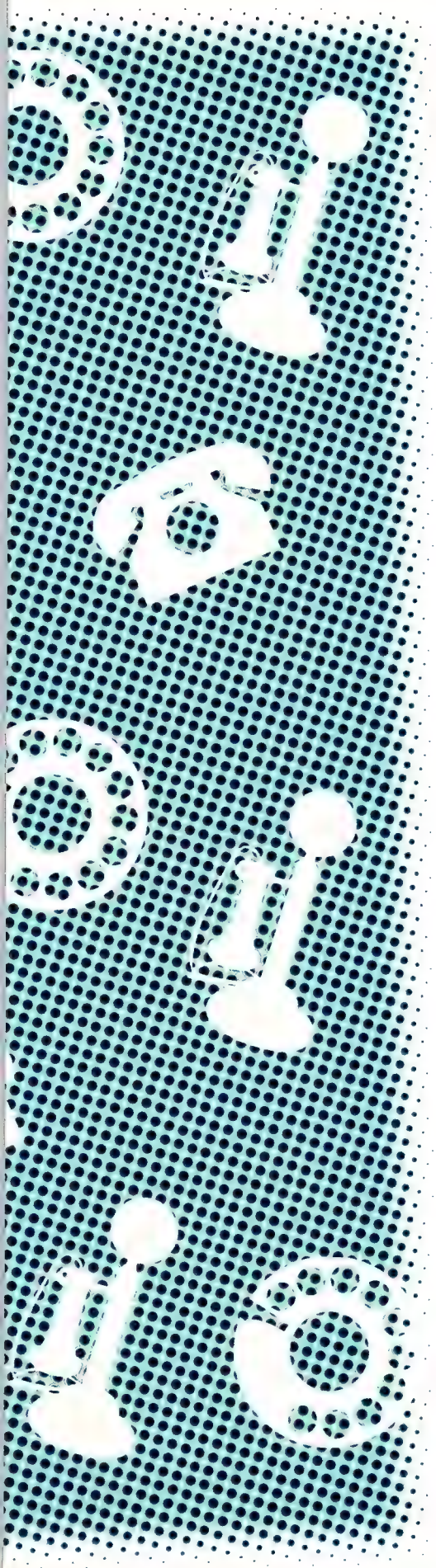
**Net2Phone software is free to download and currently available for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95, with a Mac version on the way. To place calls you will need to fax through an application to purchase a 'debit card' to the value of (US) $25, $50 or $100. Payment is by credit card. See ‹http://www.net2phone.com›**

*To find out more about Net telephony just turn this page...*

# Net telephony

## *Who ya gonna call?*

Israeli operatives crossing the globe, writs issued to recover computer code, US Congressional Inquiries and a battle for dominance between H.323, T.120, ULS, and the LDAP. All this may sound like highlights from the latest Tom Clancy novel, but it's not. Welcome to the intriguing world of Internet telephony.



Any news of the latest developments on the Net seem to throw up the same three things: a fight over commonly agreed standards, US Congressional involvement, and more new beta releases than you can point a smouldering 8-bit sound card at. Internet telephony is no exception. To appreciate where it's come from and where it's going, we'll run through the history of Internet telephony, the basics of making a call, what's in store for the future, and the software that's currently available.

## A HISTORY OF TELEPHONY IN THREE PARTS

We'll skip parts one and two; that's where Bell invents the telephone, shortly followed by the deployment of mass satellites to give us a true global communications network. We'll get straight down to part three.

The first true Internet telephony product was launched by the Israeli-based company, VocalTec, in March 1995. VocalTec's Internet Phone, or Iphone, as it is commonly called, created a lot of immediate interest amongst press and Web users. The IPhone was, and still is, regarded as the premier Internet telephony software package. Other companies soon followed with their own phone products, to the extent that there are now well over 20 phone products in the marketplace.

And what has been the response of the international telephone carriers to all this, you may ask? The major phone carriers, those that own the lines, exchanges and so on, have either stayed out of the picture, or they have given guarded support for this new call phenomenon. After all, they carry the Internet traffic anyway, and although this may be high throughput, low revenue business, the thinking is that Internet telephony will attract a new class of international caller, rather than divert traffic from existing business.

The size of the threat, if any, is also worth keeping in perspective. There are over 750 million telephones in use around the world compared with 30 million or so Internet users, of which some 2 million have probably downloaded phone software.

As for the smaller intermediate carriers that purchase blocks of time from the majors and on-sell it at budget rates, they're not so happy. In March 1996, a group of such carriers, through their lobby group, America's Carriers Telecommunication Association (ACTA), filed a petition with the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The ACTA asked for Internet telephony software to be banned and for the FCC to regulate this type of traffic over the Internet. The FCC rejected the ACTA's partition, for now. ›

## PLUGGING IN

As Web content becomes more sophisticated, hardware requirements become more demanding. Internet telephony has only added to this: more memory, more speed, more .... spiral. Generally, minimum hardware requirements are listed as a 14.4kbps modem and a half-duplex sound card (half-duplex means only one person can speak at the one time, like CB radio). The truth of the matter is that unless you're running a full-duplex sound card and a 28.8kbps modem, the whole process of talking on the Net will probably end up as a frustrating disappointment.

**FAQS**

**FAQ: How can I use the Internet as a telephone?**

http://rpcp.mit.edu/~asears/voice-faq.html

http://rpcp.mit.edu/~itel/voice_faq.html

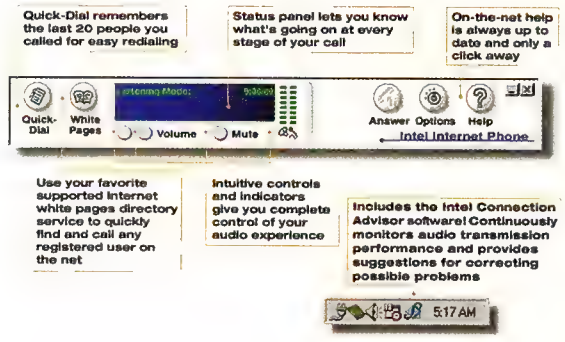
One other essential item of equipment is a microphone for your sound card. To avoid both feedback and problems with voice levels, I would recommend you purchase a headset with a microphone, rather than use loudspeakers and a separate microphone. That said, it's no easy task to find sound card headsets. After ringing around the major computer and electronics stores, as well as a trip to the Sunday computer market, I still came up empty. It was only by chance, while buying a toner refill, that I found a $25 headset at my local computer shop. I also saw an ad somewhere for mail order headsets but I personally don't like buying products unless I can feel the quality of the shrink wrap.

We won't cover the installation of phone software here, because the documentation is usually pretty good and many of the packages come with installation wizards. (*ANG* covered installation in the May issue in an article called 'Hearing Voices'). The only comment I would make is that you need to become familiar with all your system options and spend time both off- and online to fine-tune your settings. To achieve reasonable sound, your volume, microphone sensitivity (vox) and the compression codec used are critical.

Internet telephones connect either through a common server (similar in concept to an Internet Relay Chat server) or point-to-point (IP address to IP address). Those that connect through a server use their own proprietary directories to allow other phone users to register, find you, and to connect.

Depending on the software in use, you will either be automatically connected to a server when you start the software, or you will have to manually connect, either from a drop-down list within the software or from the software company's home page. Needless to say, you must be online before all this happens.

The more popular packages, such as IPhone, organise their directories into special interest groupings (again like IRC). You simply click on the group you wish to view in your directory dialog and either wait for a call or call someone by selecting their listed name.




It's hard to describe the quality of sound you get during a phone conversation on the Net, although if you've used any realtime audio streaming products, you will have some appreciation of what to expect. It's a little like talking to someone through a long tunnel filled with foam. The voice of the party on the other end will vary up and down in pitch and at times drop out completely. You will also notice time delays in the delivery of your conversation, a little like those live interview link ups you see on television, although it doesn't take long to get used to this and respond accordingly.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As already mentioned, current proprietary standards restrict you to conversing with people operating the same software. Understandably, users are therefore keen to see a uniform standard for phone software and the directory services that feed them. One such standard, the International Telecommunications Union's H.323, seems set to be the one most software phone companies will eventually support. ›

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TELSTRA-NET

› The Intel Internet Phone already uses H.323 and both Netscape and Microsoft have announced plans to ship H.323-compliant products by the end of the year. In the case of Netscape, its H.323 product will be called LiveCall, replacing the existing CoolTalk add-on, and will be bundled with the Navigator 4.0 browser. Microsoft's plan is to start beta testing the H.323-compliant NetMeeting 1.1 around the time this magazine hits the newsstands.

Although agreeing on voice communication standards, the Net's big two seem set to clash over standards for the directory services that support Internet voice calls and conferencing. Microsoft is backing it's User Location Service (ULS) directory standard, while Netscape is on the side of the more popular Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) system.

With some of the big computer names now entering the telephony field, (Netscape, Microsoft, Intel, Rockwell and IBM just to name a few), and with more than 20 organisations currently offering products in this still niche market, it is more than likely that a big shake up is just around the corner.

VocalTec's premier position probably assures them a place in the future (although market dominance is never a guarantee, just look at Adlib sound cards and Word Perfect word processing). As for the rest, it's survival of the fittest, particularly now that both Netscape and Microsoft are bundling this type of software with their browsers. The bigger question for the future isn't so much which products will still be around in a week's time, but how far Internet telephony will encroach into the business of the current international call carriers.

Some of the big US online providers such as America OnLine and CompuServe have announced plans to provide special telephone networks to their subscribers. Given the size of their subscription base and the ability to implement one standard codec for all users, this will give a big boost to the number of Net telephone users.

More frightening for the international carriers is the development of systems to connect Internet telephones with public switching networks (that is, your common old telephone). The Free World Dialup Global Experiment (FWD), through dedicated volunteers, started experimenting with the concept back in February.

The concept has now moved on from these early experiments with the International Discount Telecommunications Corporation (IDT) having already released its Net2Phone. By pre-purchasing telephone credits, you can ring one of over 500 points in the US and be connected to the world through their local telephone network. Costs for the service generally range from 10 to 20 cents per minute.

Other players in this field are also making their moves. VocalTec through an alliance with Dialogic, a manufacturer of computer telephony equipment, have developed the Internet Phone Telephony Gateway, creating a bridge between the Internet and public phone networks. By using either a standard or Internet telephone, users can place calls through the Internet with the Gateway servers controlling the routing. Of course, to call overseas at cheap rates, both your ISP and an ISP in the area you are calling must have the Gateway hardware/software installed.

On August 21 Rockwell's Switching Systems Division announced a strategic alliance with the NetSpeak Corporation, marketers of the WebPhone, to develop and market products to allow Web users to speak directly with global call centres over the Internet.

Internet Telephony is still little more than a recreational novelty, but as Voice on the Net (or VON, a phrase attributed to the leading advocate in this field, Jeff Pulver at ‹http://www.von.com›) ›

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http://www.von.com

http://www.pulver.com/von

**Jack Decker's Audio and Video via the Internet**

http://www.novagate.com/~jack/audiovid.html

› products develop and its connection with the existing telephone network becomes more widespread, we could well see global voice mail systems, the full integration of voice into e-mail, and free call 1-800 links through Web sites. Further developments in conferencing and telephone video, (Netscape and Microsoft have plans to release a video conferencing version of their software), both of which are still severely hampered by bandwidth, also promise an exciting future of interactive contact with others on the Net.

## THE RANGE

At the moment, directory protocols and data encoding are mainly based on proprietary standards. This means you can only connect to other Net telephones from the same software provider. The brand of phone you choose is therefore critical.

We have listed the major, (and some not-so-major), software packages that are available. Before launching into this range, it is probably appropriate for us to give out some awards.

The three packages that seem to be clearly ahead in sound quality, features and installed user base are VocalTec's Internet Phone, WebPhone from NetSpeak and Microsoft's NetMeeting. If you want to use Internet telephony to meet new people, then IPhone is a definite choice. If you're after a cheap connection with someone you already know, then WebPhone or NetMeeting would be a good option.

### DigiPhone from Third Planet Publishing

**http://www.planeteers.com**

One of the first products in the market but had a tough time with consumer complaints and some bad Net press. Many of the bugs now seem to be ironed out, leaving a reasonable quality product with a bare but adequate interface. DigiPhone users can register with the global directory and connect by entering their name and e-mail address or by IP address if known. A Mac version has been released recently.

- **File Size:** 809Kb
- **Version:** 1.03 and Deluxe
- **Platforms:** PC, Mac, free 30 day trial with registration number.

### Intel Internet Phone

**http://www.intel.com/iaweb/cpc**

This product uses ULS directory servers and is based on the H.323 standard, which will hopefully become the dominant standard. Works in conjunction with either Netscape's Navigator or Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Includes the Intel Connection Adviser for live monitoring of your Net connection and audio transmission.

- **File Size:** 2,036Kb
- **Version:** Beta 2, free with a January 15, 1997 expiry date.
- **Platforms:** Windows 95 (Pentium 90 or better). ›

## FOR THE FULL PICTURE

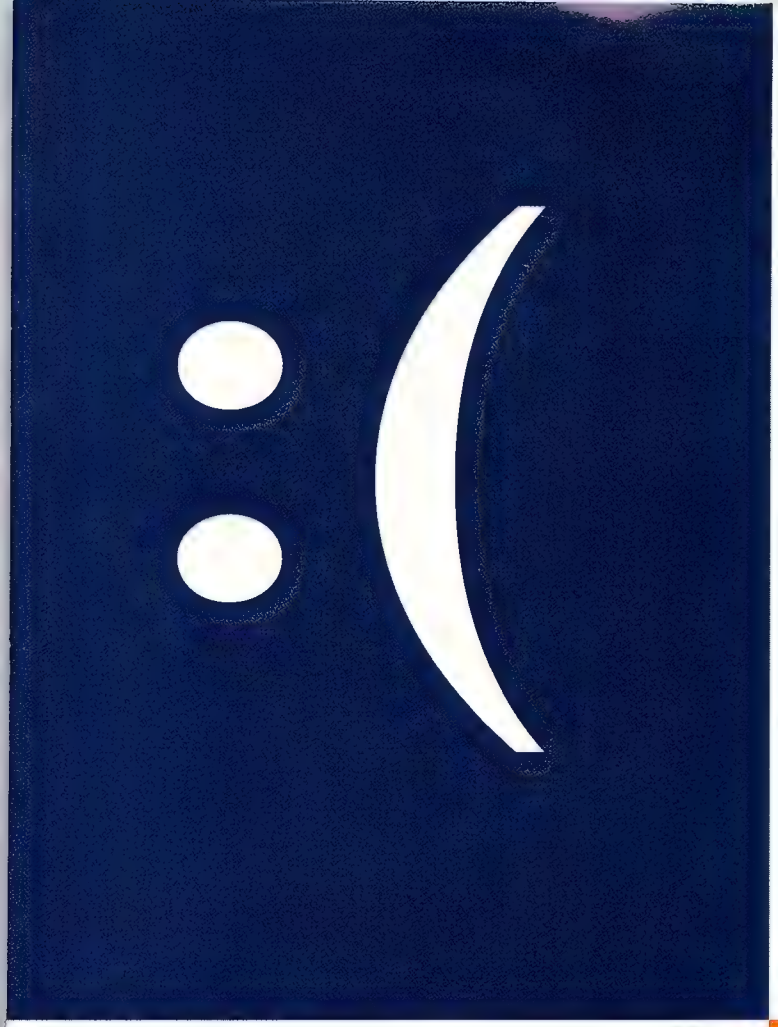
**The Impact of the Internet on the Phone Industry: Facts and Vision**
http://www.newbridge.com/CoverStories/VOI_Pres/index.html

**The Internet Telephony Consortium**
http://rpcp.mit.edu/~itel

**Telecom Information Resources on the Internet: For everything in the known telecommunications world.**
http://www.spp.umich.edu/telecom/telecom-info.html

**Webstart Communications 'Computer and Communication' Home Page**
http://www.webstart.com/cc

**The International Telecommunications Union.**
The people responsible for the H.323 standard for audio and video conferencing over networks.
http://www.itu.ch



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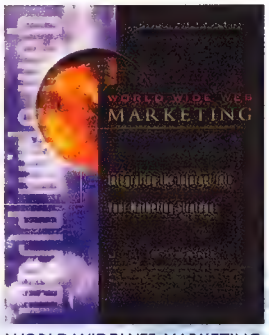


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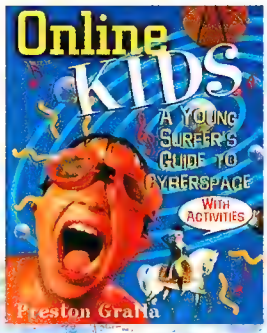


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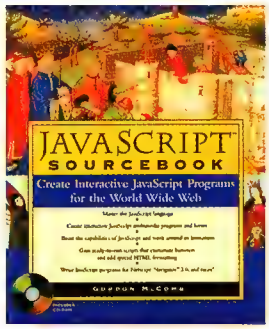


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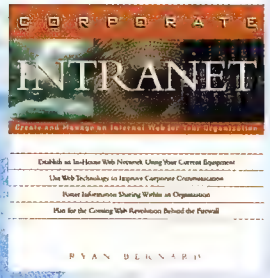


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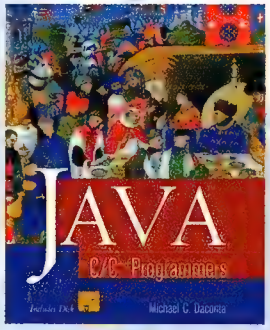


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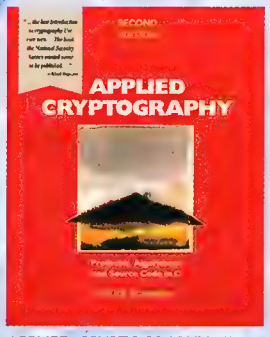


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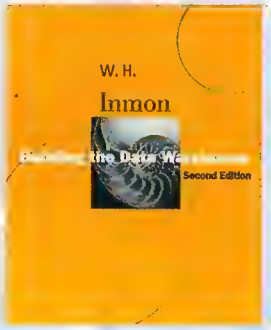


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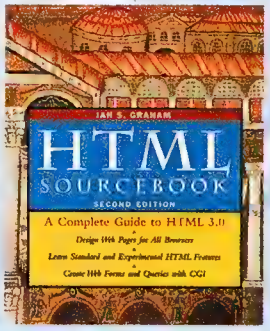


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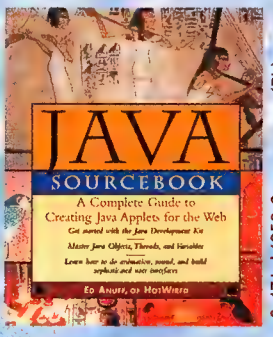


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### › NetMeeting from Microsoft

**http://microsoft.com/netmeeting**

As with Netscape's CoolTalk, NetMeeting provides a range of conferencing tools including a whiteboard, application sharing, file transfer and chat. The voice quality during our tests was excellent, but we did strike both voice and operational problems when we tried to create a multi-cast conference. Both a browser (IE 3.0) and stand alone versions are available.

- **File Size:** 2,021Kb
- **Version:** 1.0
- **Platforms:** Windows 95, Free.

### FreeTel

**http://www.freetel.com**

It's out there, but we found the Web site just too slow to get anywhere near a download.

- **File Size:** 272Kb
- **Version:** 1.00 free unlimited use or $US29.95 for FreeTel+ Reg Code or $US39.95 for FreeTel Personal Edition.
- **Platforms:** PC (Win 3.x or Windows 95), 486/33 or faster.

### CoolTalk from Netscape

**http://home.netscape.com**

Netscape's browser phone provides a reasonable quality Internet telephone and conferencing facilities such as a whiteboard and sophisticated chat tools. Includes an answering machine, business card-type ID and an integrated global directory. A Mac beta version has also now been released.

- **File Size:** 1,906Kb
- **Version:** 1.0
- **Platforms:** Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 3.1, MacOS, SunOS, Solaris, HP-UX, Digital Unix, and IRIX.

### Enhanced CU-SeeMe from White Pine

**http://www.wpine.com**

First developed at Cornell University, White Pine has licensed the product for commercial release. More a video conferencing app than an Internet Phone, CU-SeeMe supports a wider user base than other recent video phone software releases. Multi-cast and directory services enhancements are due for release shortly with the new version 2.1. To take full advantage you will need a video camera (retail $199 - $399).

- **File Size:** 3,186Kb
- **Version:** 2.02. Free demo requiring serial number, $US69 for download version.
- **Platforms:** Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT, Macintosh and Power Macintosh.

### Gather Talk

**http://www.cixt.cuhk.edu.hk/gtalk**

Shareware voice and video conferencing software for those who are game to tinker a little. Does not require a special chat server as all connections are direct point-to-point.

- **File Size:** 1,124Kb (Full Version)
- **Version:** 0.3 Beta 1c
- **Platforms:** Windows 95 and SUN SPARC, Shareware.

### InterCom

**http://www.ixworld.com/ic/intercom.html**

Exclusively for OS/2 Warp users, InterCom includes video support, file transfer, caller ID, quick call and answering machine.

- **File Size:** 700K ›

**PRODUCT REVIEWS**

**Welcome to the Home of Hertz Technologies Inc**
http://www.hertz1.com

**Virtual Voice**
http://www.virtual-voice.com/index.html

› • **Version:** v3.16
• **Platforms:** OS/2 Warp, demo available or registered version for $US29.95.

### IBM Internet Connection Phone

**http://www.internet.ibm.com/icphone/index.html**

Every time we tried to download a beta version of this product we got a 404 error, File Not Found. I wonder why IBM doesn't dominate the computer market these days? Nevertheless, by all accounts this isn't a bad app.

• **File Size:** N/A
• **Version:** 1.0 beta
• **Platforms:** Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp.

### VocalTec's Internet Phone

**http://www.vocaltec.com**

The premier Net telephony app, as testified by the large number of users always to be found on the IPhone directory servers. Release 4 for Windows 95 now includes an expanded user interface, teleconferencing features such as voice mail, file exchange, directory server, point-to-point connection and a whiteboard. Other standard features on both 3.2 and 4.0 versions include caller ID, call waiting, text chat and voice mail. Version 3.01 for the Mac O/S has recently been released.

• **File Size:** 2,492Kb/3,939Kb
• **Version:** 3.01 (Mac), 3.2 (Windows) and 4.0 (Windows 95)
• **Platforms:** Windows 3.x, W95 and Mac OS, demo version for 3.2 (60 second call limit) and 4.0 available, $US49.95.

### Internet Call

**http://dsp.ee.cuhk.edu.hk/proj/icall.html**

For those who miss the old grass roots, non commercial, amateur enthusiast days of the Internet, then this offering from Professor Ching and Messrs Wu and Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong is for you. It's a little unstable and will require some manual configuration of settings along the way.

• **File Size:** 108Kb
• **Version:** .5 Beta 2
• **Platforms:** Win32 and SUN SPARC.

**LEADING EDGE PIONEERS**

**The Free World DialUp Project**

http://www.pulver.com/fwd

### WebPhone from Netspeak Corporation

**http://www.itelco.com**

WebPhone doesn't connect using the more conventional method of directory servers, but instead has concentrated on point-to-point connections which are achieved using a user's e-mail address. Features include voice mail, four-line call waiting, call blocking, caller ID, text chat noteboard, call conferencing and transfer. Every aspect of this software, from the sound quality to the available features, was impressive. If you're not into the social chat environment and want a business-like person-to-person Net telephone, then this may well be your best choice.

• **File Size:** 883Kb
• **Version:** 2.01
• **Platforms:** Windows 3.x, Windows 95, Windows NT, OS/2 Warp, free (3 minute call limit) evaluation, $US49.95.

### Net2Phone from IDT

**http://www.net2phone.com**

Aimed at access to the standard telephone network through your computer. Does not currently support full duplex.

• **File Size:** 731Kb
• **Version:** Beta, free but requires IDT debit card.
• **Platforms:** Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, 486/33 or faster.

### IRIS Phone from IRIS Systems Ltd

**http://irisphone.com**

Provides full duplex conversation, directory Phonebook, full user ID including picture, voice mail, answering machine, auto redial, conversation recording and text chat.

• **File Size:** 1,226Kb
• **Version:** 2.02 ›

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•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.5x/4.0, 486/40 or better, 30 day trial with online password, $US19.95.

### SpeakFreely

**http://www.fourmilab.ch/index.html**

Another Net telephone for those who don't mind tinkering with their machine's configuration and like apps developed by grass roots enthusiasts. Provides encryption, voice mail and multicasting. The source code is also available for those C/C++ programmers out there.

•**File Size:** 304Kb

•**Version:** 6.0 (Windows 3.x), 6.1 (Windows 95 and NT), 6.1b (UNIX).

•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x, Windows 95 , Windows NT and UNIX, Freeware.

### SoftFone from SilverSoft

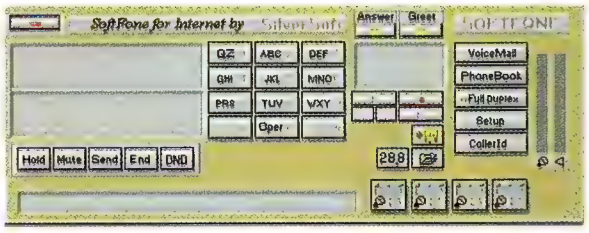
**http://www.pak.net**

SoftFone's pleasant interface provides multiple calling, full-duplex, answering machine, variable rate compression, connection to dynamic IP addresses and voice mail. Unfortunately, when it came to using all these nice features the results were disappointing.

•**File Size:** 279Kb

•**Version:** 2.3

•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x and Windows 95, free evaluation, $US19.95.




### TeleVox from Voxware Inc

**http://www.voxware.com/mainmenu.html**

If you have the persistence to work through a slow Web site, you will be rewarded with an application that has both good sound quality and a number of both nice and novel features. TeleVox provides file transfer, text-based chat, caller ID and call blocking. A nice novel feature is the use of 'VoiceFonts'. These allow you to transform your voice into such characters as Robbie the Robot or even someone of the opposite sex. Connection is made through Voxware servers and the stability of the application was a little shaky, as might be expected with beta software.

•**File Size:** 741Kb

•**Version:** 0.3 Beta

•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x and Windows 95, free.

### VDOPhone from VDO

**http://www.vdo.net/vdophone**

Adds the ultimate touch to Voice on the Net, full colour motion video. Features include motion versus quality prioritising at low bandwidths, a 'virtual business card', integration with Microsoft's NetMeeting and audio only or text chat operation.

•**File Size:** 1,749Kb

•**Version** 1.1 beta

•**Platforms:** Windows 95, free beta trial.

### VidCall from MRA Associates

**http://www.access.digex.net /~vidcall/vidcall.html**

Direct competitor to CU-SeeMe in the video phone market, and includes teleconferencing features such as multi-point connection, white-board, file transfer, audio/video mail and application sharing.

•**File Size:** 1,319Kb

•**Version:** Free4ALL v5.87, free demonstartion.

•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x or Windows 95, free demo, $US55.00 upgrade to Standard Version.

### WEBTALK FROM QUARTERDECK CORPORATION

**http://www.qdeck.com**

Having received a bit of a hiding in the browser and server fields, Quarterdeck now seems to be concentrating its efforts on more specialised applications such as WebTalk. WebTalk provides a large array of controls to tinker with sound quality, sometimes to the detriment of it, and provided good feedback on transmission rates. Overall, a good all-round performance, especially if both parties have the time to fine-tune their settings. The only criticism was the difficult system imposed to connect to other users.

•**Platforms:** Windows 3.x, Windows 95, no demo available, $US49.95. ■

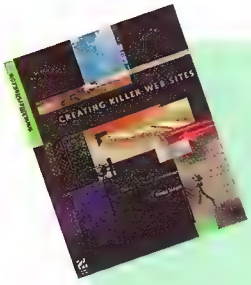
# [ Top Ten Gifts ]

## for the technophile

No gadget has the power to fascinate quite like a small and powerful thingamajig from the computer age. Show someone a 500 gram plastic package with buttons on the front, a small flip-up screen and a tiny keyboard, and they'll be hooked. If it's smaller, faster, better, and above all, new, the technomanic will surely lust after it. For this, our Christmas issue, a few technophiles from the *ANG* office took a look at some neat and useful gadgets and books. We have assembled the results in a list of ten top gifts for the technophile.

### THE NOKIA 9000 COMMUNICATOR

The gadget of the year award goes to the Nokia 9000 Communicator. Wrapped up in this small plastic box is a computer and mobile phone. If you're after the ultimate communications device, this gadget has got the lot. You get mobile phone, fax, notes, telephone lists, contacts lists and calendar, as well as mobile e-mail and mobile Internet. On the front of the Communicator are all the usual mobile phone features, but press the button on the side and it flips open to reveal a mini computer with built-in mobile telecoms. The Noika 9000 has two drawbacks: it's a bit heavy to carry around in your pocket and at around $2900, it's price may also be a little heavy on your pocket. Still, if you have a friend who is right into technogifts and you're feeling exceptionally generous, this is the ultimate gift for Christmas.
Available: Nokia dealers. **[Jeremy Horey]**




### CREATING KILLER WEB SITES

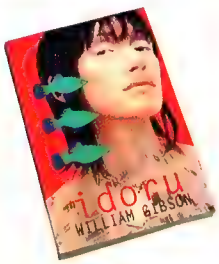
**This is a must-have book for any technophile who has ever wanted to build a Web site. This book is generations ahead of the many other online design books around at the moment. David Siegel reveals the tricks that make for really great Web sites and his one pixel gif trick takes Web design to the next stage. This trick alone, so simple once you know it, is in itself worth the price of the book. He shows the reader how to create graphics files that download fast over the Web and how to avoid 'image inflation'. In my opinion, this book is revolutionary. Although it stands out as expensive in the dollar per kilo world of computer books, it's worth every cent of $89.95. Details: Prentice Hall. [JH]**

## INSTANT TV

**For the person who wants it all – Web surfing and channel surfing! They keep telling us that television and the Internet will merge, and here's the proof. Instant TV is a simple yet ingenious concept, it turns your monitor into a television, without your having to install software or pull apart your CPU. The external TV unit works as a go-between. Simply plug it into your VGA card (where you plug your monitor into the computer) and plug the monitor into the unit. The TV unit is slim and could easily be mistaken for a modem (sneaky, sneaky). It's powered separately by an external supply (so you'll need an extra power point) and has to be turned on for your monitor to work. It's then just a matter of plugging in the external aerial from the wall, or connecting up the TV rabbit ears (which can be harder to disguise in the office). RRP is $349. [Nicole Manktelow]**

## KODAK DC20 CAMERA

**As cameras go, the DC20 is cute, lightweight and small enough to take just about anywhere. And what's more, it's digital, which is important if you're a computer buff. This digital camera allows you to take electronic pictures which can then be uploaded to a computer. These images can then be used on your home page – no more scanning! The DC20 is slim in design and low on buttons, making it very easy to use. The camera stores up to 16 low resolution shots at a time, or eight high resolution at 493 x 373 pixel, which can be transferred to your computer's hard drive as .tif files (24-bit 16 million colours). All this with a tiny 3 volt lithium battery. It's available for Windows (users may need a 25 pin to nine pin adapter for the comm port) and Macintosh, and includes cables and software for both. RRP is about $560. [NM]**




William Gibson is the master of cyberspace and his latest book, *Idoru*, proves it once again. Although he knew nothing about computers when he wrote his first book, *Neuromancer*, Gibson's understanding of the online world grows with each book.

In *Idoru* Gibson takes us to a post-industrial Japan, a post-earthquake Tokyo where the buildings are being re-built with nanotechnology and the most exclusive club in the city is perched atop a condemned skyscraper. But the greatest marvel of all is the Walled City, a construct in cyberspace, built by a group of rebels reacting against the encroachment of commercial interests into the electronic world.

IDORU

Details: Penguin Books, 1996, by William Gibson, rrp: $19.95. **[JH]** ›

## COMCORP'S 33.6K MODEM

**No technophile's Christmas stocking would be complete without one of the hot new modems that run at 33.6K.**

**To most mortals 33.6K doesn't seem like much of a speed increase over 28.8K, but for the true technophile it is a required buy – anything that goes faster is worth the money. What's good about the Comcorp modem is that your money isn't wasted. Comcorp provides an upgrade path for its modems. When the 56.6K speedsters hit the streets next year, you will be able to upgrade your Comcorp beast to the latest and best for a lot less than the price of a new box.**

**The Comcorp modem is backed by a lifetime parts and labour warranty. Complete with cables, LCD screen and everything you'll need, the Comcorp PED will set you back $429.**

**Available: Harvey Norman (or check with Comcorp on (02) 9873 4433). [JH]**

## 3D BLASTER PCI

The 3D Blaster PCI is like a V8 engine for graphics and will have game buffs drooling.

Why? Primarily because this card offers speedy acceleration of both 2D and 3D graphics at a pace that just has to be seen to be believed. At the heart of the matter, the 3D Blaster PCI packs a whopping 4Mb of on-board memory to really get the graphics moving. The 3D Blaster PCI supports Windows 95 3D and 2D graphics and video acceleration, and is Windows 95 Plug and Play compatible. It comes with 3D enhanced games including a shareware version of Quake to get you started, along with desktop control software and a MPEG player to boot. RRP is $399. **[NM]**

## SIMULEYES

Kiss the red and blue pieces of cellophane goodbye, you won't need them after you've looked at the world through Simuleyes.

Simuleyes are 3D glasses that will take you one step closer to virtual reality. Forget the huge VR helmets and goggles, get your head into some lightweight Simuleyes glasses. You might feel a bit silly sitting in front of your computer with sunnies on, but the special effects you'll see when playing games such as Descent will be well worth it.

You don't need any software to install Simuleyes. The main unit works off a dongle (a connector/adapter device with a silly name) between your computer's VGA card and monitor, and the glasses are plugged into it.

Although the main use of this device is for games, you can also pop along to the Web site and check out some great stereo images by downloading a little program called SG Toggle.

Simuleyes is for PCs (sorry Mac users) and requires 4 AA batteries. Decent: Destination Saturn game software is included.

RRP is $298. **[NM]**

## THE IOMEGA JAZ DRIVE

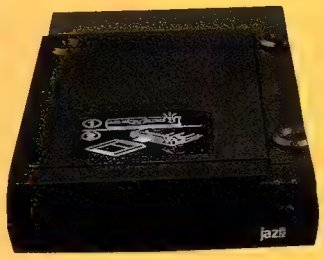
**Iomega took the storage market by storm with its Zip drives. Those inexpensive little beauties delivered 100M on affordable, removable cartridges. The company has now gone one better with its 1G Jaz drives.**

**Every technophile runs out of disk space, it's part of the job description. For technophiles who love new software but never get around to cleaning up last month's fad, the Jaz drive is a must-have item.**

**It offers inexhaustible disk space at less than $200 per gigabyte, or 20 cents a megabyte. Sure, you can get cheaper disk space, but a computer can only take so many disk drives and you're going to run out of slots eventually.**

**The Jaz is available for either Mac or PC. It costs $899 and comes with a 1G cartridge.**

**Available: Most computer retailers. [JH]**



### THE PLAYSTATION BY SONY

The Sony PlayStation uses 32-bit CD-based technology. It has superb games, high detail graphics – and it's fast!

With the huge range of games now available for the PlayStation, this is high on my list of stocking stuffers for Christmas. (Please Santa – I've been very good this year.)

Sony has done its homework here and has produced some very impressive specifications. It has six independent processors including a dedicated 32-bit RISC CPU with a clock frequency of 33Mhz. It can store a bucket full of bits with its 16 megabits of RAM and 8 megabits of V-RAM. There's also a double speed CD-ROM that delivers CD quality sound from a 24 channel, 16-bit sound processor. It comes with built-in digital effects and supports full screen, full colour video playback functions using the JPEG format.

I have played several games and the quality of game play, sound and graphics leave the traditional games consoles way behind, and each new game just gets bigger and better. My favourites are Formula One and Road Rash. Both make for endless hours of heart-thumping, adrenaline-draining driving and riding. A Sony Playstation will set you back between $349 and $399.Available: Most department stores and electronics and toy retailers. **[David Mitchell]** ■

[ TopTen Gifts ]

# Top 50 downloads

Top 50 downloads

Top 50 downloads

*With software becoming so simple to download and install, the Net is a quick and easy way for you to get hold of the latest computer offerings, sometimes within minutes of being released. In addition to the latest versions of your favourite browser, you can download nifty new products, plug-ins and components such as James Bond screen savers and obscure FX for your home page. A list of downloads for the Mac start on page 62.*

PC Mac

Although we downloaded stuff from most of the sites listed here and did not encounter any viruses, always remember to take precautions. We featured a tutorial on how to avoid viruses in the last issue of *ANG*. This tutorial can now be viewed online at ‹http://netguide.aust.com›.

# Downloads for the PC

[ by Nicole Manktelow ]

## WINZIP

First things first. If you want to download files from the Net, you'll need the most basic tool of the trade – Winzip. Winzip is by far the easiest program for zipping and unzipping (compressing and decompressing) files for transfer over the Net. Winzip just pops up, lets you select what you want to unzip, select the directory or folder you want to unzip to, and does its thing. The program comes equipped to handle uuencode, BinHex and MIME standards and has won a stack of awards. Simplicity itself. Winzip is available for Windows and Windows 95. It's shareware fee is $US29.

**http://www.winzip.com**

## PAINT SHOP PRO

Paint Shop Pro is one of those programs people swear by, not at. It's an image editing program with a swag of paint tools and abilities. It gathered a devout following long ago when users realised that you didn't need to perform high resolution magic to get nice graphics on the Web. Paint Shop Pro was the inexpensive and versatile alternative, with support for more file formats than you could poke a mouse at. This program is still as straightforward as ever, and now includes some trendy special effects such as instant drop shadow, buttonise and chisel. It also has a browse option that allows you to quickly view entire directories (or CD-ROMs) of ›

pictures at a glance. A double click on the image you want will bring the picture into Paint Shop Pro proper, all ready to be worked on. It's available for Windows 95 and 3.1. Shareware fee (through Australian distributors) is $110.
**http://www.jasc.com or http://www.computeng.com.au/~cunique/psp1.htm**

## WS-FTP VS CUTE-FTP

FTP client programs are an essential tool for the ardent Web page creator and the download addict. But which is the best one? We'll take a look at two of the best tools of the trade. WS-FTP is great because it is simple to use and logically laid out. One side of the window shows you the files on your hard drive, the other side shows you what directories you're looking at on your Web server or an FTP site. Available for Windows 95 and 3.1, free for non-commercial use.
**http://www.ipswitch.com/pd_wsftp.html**

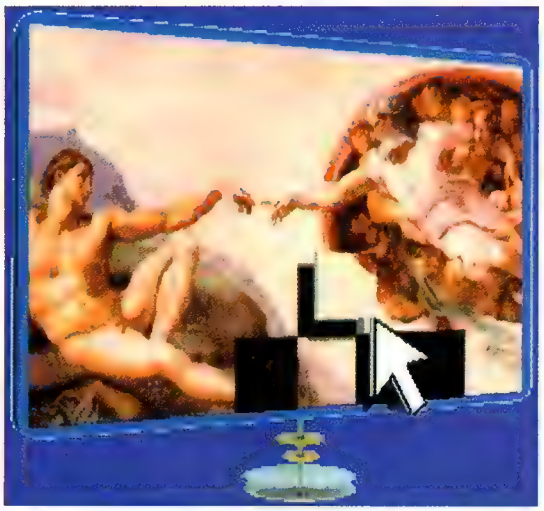
Cute-FTP on the other hand is well loved because it can pick up where it left off which is very handy in peak hour Net traffic when you're kicked off the line or if you're having ISP connection troubles. Available for Windows 95 and 3.1, with a shareware fee of $US30. Both programs allow you to save the settings for different FTP sites, so if you have more than one ISP account or favourite FTP site, passwords and User IDs will be remembered.
**http://www.cuteftp.com**

## MIRC

This is the ultimate in IRC programs. It is so easy to use few IRC chat programs come close. mIRC users patiently wait for its creator to come up with the next version to see what functions have been added. A novice will be able to use this program by simply filling in a few details, selecting a server and diving straight in. With a few favourite commands accessible from the right mouse button menu, you might even have a little fun. Experienced users will customise mIRC to the nth degree, with aliases for more complicated commands (particularly channel operators) and popups for favourite actions and for playing sound files. Both 16- and 32-bit versions are included in the download file. mIRC is free for non-commercial use.
**http://www.mirc.co.uk**

## MICROANGELO

Microangelo is a beauty, especially if you love to personalise everything on your computer. Microangelo is a program especially designed for editing the teenie weenie icons used on the Windows 95 desktop. You can create an icon from scratch, after specifying its size, or you can capture an image to create an icon. Windows 95 users are a subversive lot and find it hard to resist the urge to tamper with the idiosyncrasies of the desktop (I used Microangelo to turn the recycle bin into a toxic waste unit, complete with bubbling green ooze). This program also creates groovy animated cursors. It's available for Windows 95 and NT with a shareware fee of between $US24.95 and $US54.95, depending on components registered.
**http://www.impactsoft.com**



## THE GIF CONSTRUCTION SET

The Gif Construction Set is a program that enables users to create animated graphics for Web pages in a handful of steps. First, select what sort of animation you want, then choose the graphics (in the order you want them to be animated). Then, choose whether you want to loop the animation or not and you're set. It's as easy as that. The GIF Construction Set lets you to preview the animation, or to edit the code behind it (if you really feel you have to). Available for Windows 95 and 3.1. Shareware fee $US20.
**http://www.mindworkshop.com/alchemy/gifcon.html**

## COOLEDIT

Shareware may not be the choice of the professional muso, but when it comes to affordable and decent software, CoolEdit would be a good choice. In my opinion it is better than Sonic Foundry Sound Forge (the product included in Macromedia's Director suite for lowly Windows 95 users, instead of Sound Edit – moan, grumble). As with a lot of good shareware programs, users willing to testify are not far away and you can find references to the program on many of the sites put up by hobby musos. Available for Windows 95 and 3.1, this program is shareware with three price options: Lite $US25, Basic $US50, and Preferred $US100.
**http://www.syntrillium.com**

## MAIL-CHECK 32

Mail-Check 32 is a program that will check multiple e-mail boxes. Lucky duck users who have more than one e-mail address won't have to keep changing the server information on their e-mail programs to find out if something has come in for them. Instead, Mail-Check sits on the Start Tray (near the clock) and checks for mail at three different e-mail addresses, alerting the user when mail comes in. Mail-Check 32 is free and is also available for Windows 3.1 users.
**http://tucows.rucc.net.au/mail95.html**

## SHOCKWAVE

Ahhh multimedia. This is the stuff that takes your average garden-variety Web page and turns it into an all-singing-all-dancing sensation. Shockwave technology has allowed many creative types to include animation, movies and streaming audio in their Web sites and the results can be spectacular. All users have to do to see the results is down-

# X-STREAMA MODEM

# Connects you to a whole NEW World

*MODEMS NOT TO SCALE

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Fax (02) 878 6522

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Fax (07) 3846 5545

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Ph (08) 364 5000
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**Western Australia**
192 Cambridge St,
Wembley 6014
Ph (09) 388 1812
Fax (09) 388 1813

WESTAN

› load the free Shockwave plug-in, and 'plug it into' their browser. The Shockwave plug-in can be used with Internet Explorer 3.0, Netscape Navigator 2.02 and up, Attachmate's Emissary and Netmanage's WebSurfer. Shockwave is for Windows 95 and 3.1, and is free.

**http://www.macromedia.com**

## NETSCAN TOOLS 32BIT

NetScan Tools is an all-in-one Internet utilities gadget that can perform ping, finger, whois, traceroute, sockets information and other stuff too techy to go into here. If you want to know about packet loss, the path to a certain server, who's connected to what and a myriad of other absorbing Net-related dilemmas, this program is for you. The best thing about it is that it needs practically no configuration at all, and you only have to look in the one spot for what might have otherwise involved four or five separate programs. NetScan Tools 32Bit is also available for Windows 3.1. It's shareware fee is $US25.

**http://www.eskimo.com/~nwps/index.html**

## EMAIL FERRET

As far as finding people goes, Email Ferret is the best critter for the job. What is Email Ferret? It's a program that sets off with just the first and last names of the person you are looking for and maybe their continent of residence, and hunts down an e-mail address. It's a very tricky task, and the program is not foolproof, but it's the best I've found so far.

Email Ferret is ultra quick to install (just seconds) and lightening quick to use, ploughing through those complicated e-mail searches as only a highly skilled rodent can. If you like this one, there are others in the Ferret family, including Web Ferret, News Ferret and IRC Ferret, and they're all free.

**http://www.vironix.com/netferret/emailferret.htm**

## KALI

Kali is a very clever little piece of software wizardry that emulates an IPX network over the Net, fooling your computer into multi-user games. Mortal Kombat, Heretic, Doom (I and II), Descent, and other games that used to be impossible to play with others unless over a local network. They're now played over the Internet by the thousands. Gaming enthusiasts swear by Kali, which is available for DOS and Windows 95, as well as OS/2 and Macintosh. Kali demos and betas are free, the full program costs $US20.

**http://www.axxis.com/kali**

## JOKE WALLPAPER

Here's a site with a sense of humour, and you'll need to bring yours along when you visit. Jokewallpaper.com bridges the wide divide between Mac and Windows users – with abuse.

Cause pain to the Maccies by installing such start up screens as 'Mac OS – An OS even a drunk can use'. And when you've finished ducking the cans and bottles (just joking, really) you can install the Windows 95 shutdown screen that really defines your computer's personality. 'Dave are you trying to shut me down? Dave, Dave?'

There is also a range of wallpapers, including 'Microsoft: where the hell do you want to go today?', and my personal favourite, 'Nike. Just vom it.'

**http://www.jokewallpaper.com**

## ANFX

Adding Java to your home page does *not* require a mammoth manual, a three day course, or even ploughing through any of the assorted developer kits available. anFX is a program that will allow users to add some quick and easy spice to their Web pages knowing diddly-squat about Java programming. Users can create text and shapes, in various colours and animate or fade these objects independently. Users can download anFX, test out the program and view the results. You will have to buy the product before you can whack the Java on your Web pages. The good news is it's cheap as chips at $29.

**http://www.ozemail.com.au/~stepsoft**

## FLEXED

Want a HTML editor with muscle? FlexED packs a wallop for it's size, and offers good features, without overwhelming a more experienced user with buttons and such. You can get cracking and type some of the code you want directly into it's workspace, or peruse the commands and tags you need from the popup menus. FlexEd allows you to double click on inserted tags to change settings and parameters. Newbie features include wizards and templates. Available for Windows 95 and 3.1, priced at $29.95.

**http://nt.infoflex.com.au/flexed/flexed.htm**

## ENHANCED CU-SEEME

Feeling adventurous? Throw caution (and bandwidth) to the wind and get into Net video conferencing. Enhanced CU-SeeMe is software for multi-point video conferencing (where multiple users can be connected at the same time). Technically, you don't need an ISDN link to use the software, but any connection under a 28.8kbps modem will be a struggle. Network glitches aside, this software is a great diversion and besides audio and text chat, also has a shared whiteboard which can be very useful. Even if you don't like 'facing up' to others on the Net, you'll still get a kick out of some of the broadcast CU-SeeMe sites, such as NASA TV. Available for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1, its shareware fee is $US69.

**http://www.cu-seeme.com** ›

Back
Forward
Home
Reload
Images
Open
Print
Find
Stop
Go To:
What's New?
What's Cool?
Destinations
Net Search
People
Software
Anybody can publish a web page these days.
back
home
next

## WINDOWS 95 ANNOYANCES

Yes, Windows 95 is annoying. (It's okay for me to say it cos nobody is allowed to beat up on my machine besides me!) It's a system that likes to do things its own way (which is better, and probably what you wanted to do anyway, you just didn't know it). That's why some icons can't be changed, some things that can't be renamed, and there are shutdown screens to tell you when it's 'safe' to turn the bloody thing off.

Windows 95 Annoyances highlights these and stacks of other (somewhat condescending) personality traits *and* tells you how to fight back. Much of this subversion requires editing of the Windows 95 registry, which is a very powerful and very confusing area buried deep in the system. It's hidden so users can't muck it up – and there is some logic to this. If you mess up the registry you can have some very serious problems and you may have to reinstall Windows 95, so be very careful.

Also deserving a mention, Microsoft Power Toys are downloadable bits and pieces from Microsoft that allow users to do a fraction of the things described at the Windows 95 Annoyances page.

**http://www.creativelement.com/win95ann**
**http://www.microsoft.com/windows/common/aa293.htm**

## ACTIVEX

Everything you ever wanted to plug into Internet Explorer or put on your home page but was too afraid to download can be found at Microsoft's Gallery. Here you can download images, buttons, icons and rules. There's also a sound gallery, and style sheets (read templates) to help get your site organised. Users can also take a look at the ActiveX controls available, including Dimension X's Liquid Motion Player, Crescendo and VREAM's Wirl (VRML viewer), although these cannot be downloaded from this site. Users can check out various authoring tools and download some truetype fonts that will be supported by future versions of MSIE.

**http://www.microsoft.com/gallery**

## NETSCAPE COMPONENTS

Netscape users who want the lot should go straight to the source, the Netscape Navigator Components page, where all the plug-ins for the browser can be found, organised and ready to download. There is a heap of plug-ins available including the Cosmo Player for VRML 2.0 sites, KoanMusic a Web site midi player, Digigami a realtime audio video streaming plug-in, and VDONet for Web site video with a good compromise between compression and quality.

**http://www.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/navcomponents_download.html**

## THE SCHWA CORPORATION

The schwa is the indeterminate vowel sound of most syllables not stressed in English, as the 'a' in alone, the 'e' in debris, the 'i' in insanity'. It also means a strange or unexplained occurrence.

This Claytons vowel (the vowel you have when you're not having a vowel) also symbolises a group known for purveying obscure products – The Schwa Corporation. Alien

detection products are a speciality, particularly glow-in-the-dark T-shirts and stickers. There's nothing like a free offer and at this site you can download the Schwa Institutional Screen Cleansers (apparently wallpaper) and stickers (smaller pics), animation and sounds.

**http://www.theschwacorporation.com**

## MAPTHIS

Image maps look pretty snazzy on a Web site, but they can be hellish to put together without the help of one of the various image map programs that do all the hard work for you. The best of these has to be MapThis. Just select the image you want to convert into an image map, and select the areas you want to become linked. The rest of the process is pretty straightforward, giving you a living, breathing image map for very little effort. Best of all, MapThis is free, and can be found on many shareware sites.

**http://galadriel.ecaetc.ohio-state.edu/tc/mt**

## SITEFX

SiteFX is a tool kit from Sausage Software for adding cute special effects to Web sites. Using Java, the program creates fancy animation, animated text, 3D buttons, pulldown and scrolling lists, and even those slightly annoying status bar messages. All this wrapped up in the one work space, with a few samples thrown in, SiteFX is available for Windows 95. Download for evaluation, priced at $99.

**http://www.sausage.com.au**

## CYBERHUB CLIENT

CyberHub Client is what Netscape Windows 95 users will need to prepare themselves for an online adventure in Geocities and Black Sun's plaza. The software, combined with the browser and the links between VRML worlds and Web pages promises to provide an ever growing playground. The concept is also a great demonstration of Java, with applets given a good work out as you travel and interact with others. Windows 95 users without Netscape can download Black Sun's Cybergate VRML browser.

**http://www.geocities.com/geoworld/geoworld.html**

## SCREENSAVERS

Considering most modern monitors don't actually need screen savers to stop 'burn-in', our passion for the useless accessory is enduring, going way beyond 'mystify your mind', 'flying Windows' or even 'flying through space'. At Screensavers Bonanza you'll find a growng collection of screen savers for Windows ,Windows 95 and Macintosh. A surprising array can be found here, featuring sporting and alcohol related themes. Some cost money, others are free.

**http://www.bonanzas.com/ssavers** >

How does a Webmaster possibly cope with the ever growing publishing demands of a large organisation?

One way, of course, is to hire a platoon of webmasters to help. (Good luck.)

Or more practically, use Lotus Notes with the new Domino Internet technology. It's a much simpler, less expensive option.

Because Domino turns a Notes server into an Internet and intranet server, anybody using Notes is transformed into a web wizard.

Which means everybody in the organisation who needs to publish to the website can now do so effortlessly.

Domino makes possible a new, empowering phenomenon called 'distributed publishing'.

With no knowledge of HTML whatsoever, your people can create and manage web content from their Notes desktop.

If they can already use a word processor, they can easily author web content.

It's that simple.

This puts an end to publishing bottlenecks and Webmaster ulcers.

And dramatically improves the richness and currency of your website.

Because with Domino you can also update your web pages in real time. So your website visitors always see the most recent information.

Domino from Lotus. For a website of the people, for the people, by the people. For more information, visit our website at www.lotus.com or call Lotus on 1800 257 359.

© Lotus Development Pty Ltd. Lotus is a registered trademark & Notes is a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. Browser window © Netscape Communications Corp. VCD 60605.27

### WINGATE

Here's a handy download for anyone running a LAN and setting up Internet access. WinGate can connect many users to the Net over a single dial-up link. You'll be able to browse, e-mail, read newsgroups and do just about everything else you can do online. Costs of routers and phone lines can be saved by this shareware program. The WinGate two-user license costs $75, and for five users $140.

**http://nz.com/webnz/qbik/wingate**

### SCREEN THIEF 95

Here's one I find particularly useful. It's called Screen Thief 95 and it allows you to take screen captures from whole screen, active window, application or a user-defined area. Once taken, these shots can be zoomed in or out, trimmed and saved in BMP, PCX, GIF, PNG RLE and TIF file formats. For anyone who's been cutting and pasting into Paint, this program may be a useful alternative. Screen Thief is also available for Windows 3.1.

**http://www.nildram.co.uk/nildram/st95.html**

### DESKTOP THEMES

The odd cute icon here and there, the same old wallpaper. It just isn't good enough, your machine has to be *coordinated*. You're probably a user of Microsoft Plus, and you're probably way bored with the themes included with that package. Never fear, there are loads of themes out there to download, from nature and sports to movies and cartoons. A great starting point is Gush's Theme Page. Other desktop themes can be found here, complimenting all manner of sites. There's even one for the band Nine Inch Nails, but it's not related to their last big hit (which we won't print here). It's at ‹http://198.82.75.91/nin.html›.

**http://www.bhnet.com.br/~gush**

### THE BEST PLACE TO GET IT ALL

Lots of favourites reside at TUCOWS (the ultimate collection of Winsock software), as well as the many new programs that are added to the site daily. If you're not sure what you should get you can follow the excellent one to five cow rating system. Software freaks should subscribe to the mailing list immediately. Almost all the software you'll ever need or want to download from the Net can be found here.

**http://www.tucows.com**

Australian mirror site

**http://tucows.rucc.net.au**

### WINDOWS95.COM

Anudder site (not as good as TUCOWS) is Windows95.com. It has a great collection of, you guessed it, Windows 95 software. It's not all fun and games either, there are networking utilities, patches, programming tools, command shells and utilities galore. The rest of the site is devoted to Net-based goodies. Windows95.com makes for a good alternative stomping ground for software hunters, and has lengthy reviews.

**http://www.windows95.com**

### SHAREWARE.COM

Still can't find the program you're looking for? Don't jump, at least not until you've gone through the massive Shareware.com site which is chockers with shareware programs for all sorts of computer platforms. You can search for the program you like, or peruse the site's 'selections' for ones recommended by the reviewers.

**http://www.shareware.com** ›

## FREE TO SHARE, OR SHARE FOR FREE?

**Shareware is often mistakenly referred to as a type of software, probably because shareware programs are often lumped together on Web pages and bulletin boards. Many also share the characteristics of being small in file size and straightforward in operation. These qualities are attractive to Net users, but they don't necessarily constitute shareware.**

**The term shareware refers to a distribution policy. Software under this policy is free to download and evaluate (for a limited time), and free to distribute. Users do not have to pay to download and try out a program.**

**When the evaluation period is up, users are legally obliged (by the end user agreement distributed with the software) to either register and pay for the program if they like it, or delete it from their hard drive if they don't.**

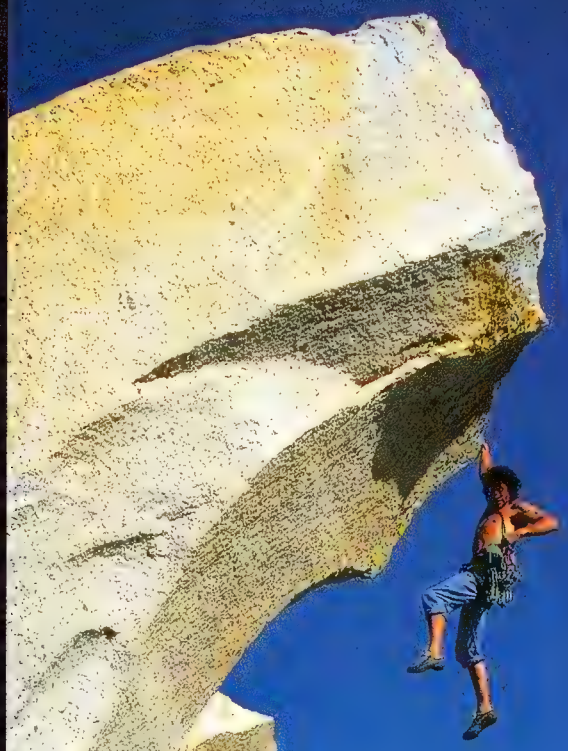
**You may have used a shareware program during the evaluation period for (say) your Web page. You are at least morally obliged to register the program because you have put it to use and has therefore passed your evaluation with flying colours.**

**Freeware is software that can be distributed freely and used freely for non-commercial use (commercial users should check the end-user license agreement to find out if and what charges may apply).**

**Some shareware directories on the Net often list the beta and demo copies of software at their sites as freeware or shareware. Although this may be technically correct, users must not assume the fully fledged product (which they will have to upgrade to) will fall under the same category.**

Advance Internet Banking

# And he pays his bills on the Net



Our Internet Banking Service is so advanced it lets you do things no-one else can do. Like paying your bills on-line. See for yourself by visiting our web site. While you're there browse through our home page for a complete run-down on all the services Advance Bank offer to make banking faster and easier. Need to know more? Then call us on 1 800 243 693. And we'll connect you to the future in banking.

1 800 243 693

Advance Bank

www.advance.com.au

# Downloads for the Mac

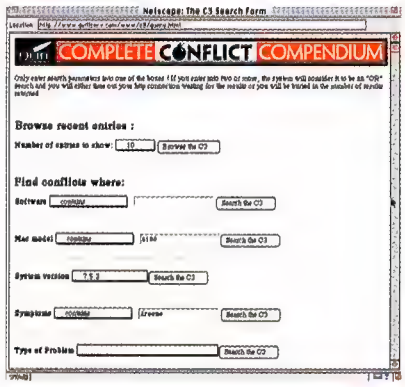
[by Osmund Iversen]

## QUILL'S COMPLETE CONFLICT COMPENDIUM

Here, you'll find a searchable database of applications and hardware that flop on the Mac, behave strangely in combination or simply freeze. At Quill CCC you can search by Mac model, software name, system version, symptoms and type of problem. Chances are that someone else has reported it. Beats tearing your hair out.

That's one down, 19 to go.

**http://www.quillserv.com/www/c3/query.html**




## GRAPHICCONVERTER 2.4.3

This is one of the most useful and well executed downloadable shareware programs I have found so far. GC does more than convert image formats. It also provides a range of essential image controls, colour adjustments and it analyses and displays even more file information than Photoshop. It will deal with QuickTime movies, and it can generate its own slide show from files in the current folder. This is the translator with the lot; a long scrolling list of Mac, Windows, Atari, Amiga, Sun and Silicon Graphics formats are covered. GC is the ideal tool in the age of the WWW, when images are thrust upon you from every known computing device. Best of all, GC can be pointed at a folder full of images and will batch convert all of them from one format to another. You can get this little life saver from almost any online software archive, and its shareware fee is $US35.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive.html**

## HOTSAUCE

Known only as Apple's ProjectX until recently, HotSauce is one of the most exciting innovations to arrive on the Web in months. It is now a simple plug-in that gives us a glimpse into the future. Since Java we've had every brand of coffee splashed over the Web, and now Apple is setting the dinner table. What is it about the Web that makes people think protein? (My friend has the next killer app in beta: Duck a l'Orange.)

HotSauce is a 3D space for your bookmarks. You zoom in and travel between sites by holding down the mouse button. Instead of clicking through menus, you have a live environment to explore. Feels like a game, and it's rather fun. HotSauce comes as a simple plug-in for Netscape, Internet Explorer or CyberDog. Many major sites have implemented a HotSauce view. Try for example flying through Yahoo! with the plug-in installed. You can create your own 'bookmarks' or X Space by dragging URLs onto the window, and the layout of the X space is under your control. The Web will never look the same again.

The MCF Viewer is available for Macintosh (PowerPC and 68K) and Windows NT/95. Why 'MCF'? Because the architecture is named Meta Content Format.

**http://mcf.research.apple.com/ProjectX**

## MYRMIDON

Everyone has gone HTML mad, but it doesn't have to be as tedious as it once was. Receiving rave reviews from many quarters is Myrmidon, an application that creates HTML directly from a word processing or even page layout file. It couldn't be easier. Myrmidon (mur-muh-don) appears as a printer selection in the *Chooser*, and by 'printing' to it, you generate instead a passable HTML document.

One expert, Don Crabb, called the trick "so obvious... you wonder why nobody thought of it before", and other lads speculate that Terry Morse's ingenious device might end up in the MacOS sooner or later. If you already own QuarkXPress, for example, this is the way to build instant Web pages.

And they need not be primitive pages either. Myrmidon handles multi column formats and tables. You might regard it as the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) for the Web. The *coup de grace* is when it adds a hyperlinked table of contents and sets up the graphics tags appropriately linked to saved GIF files.

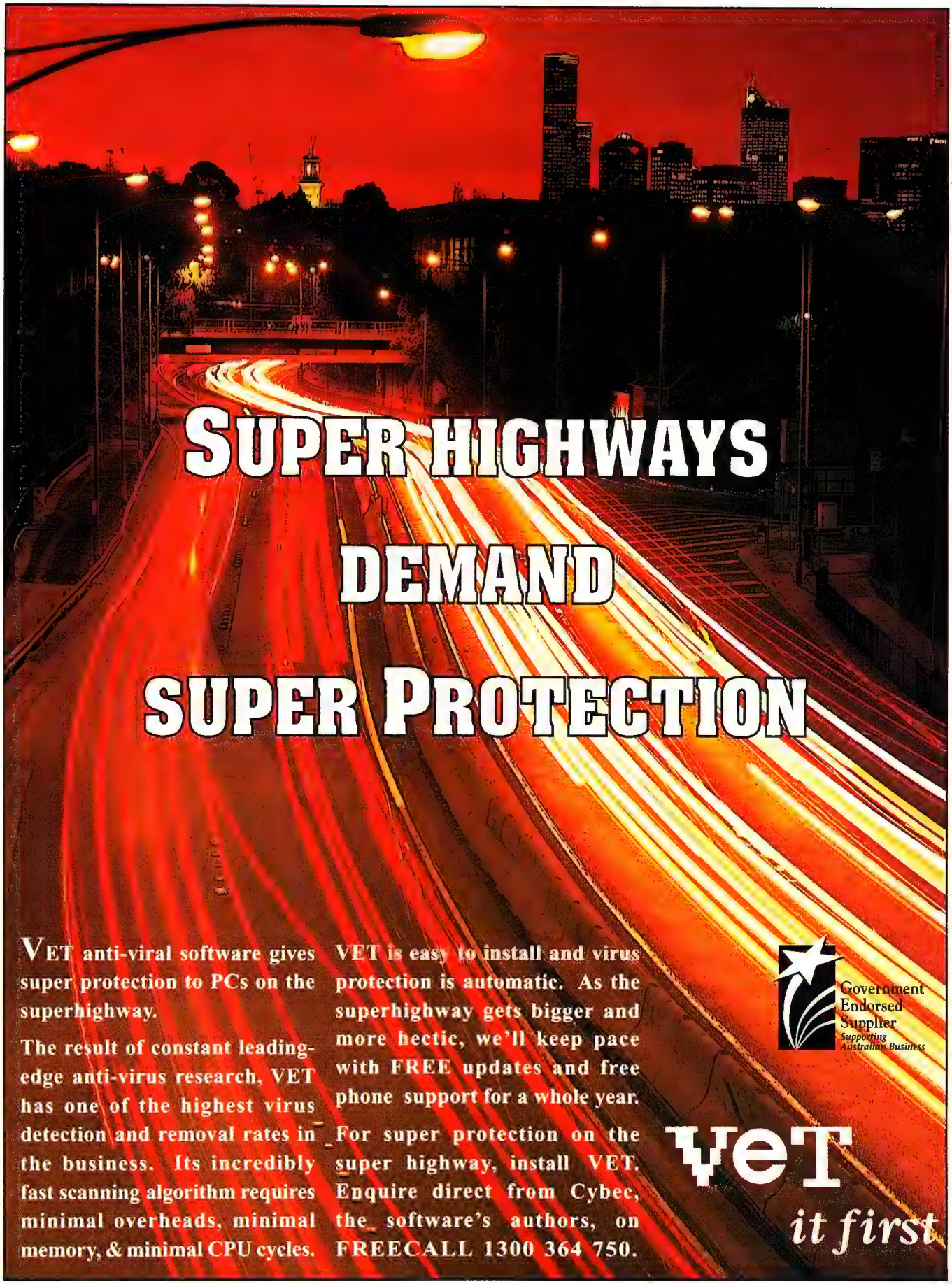
Myrmidon turns any screen from almost any application into HTML. In addition, it adds intelligence when used as a normal printer driver. You can create a 'Meta-printer' and assign tasks to it. That way, you can have presets for printing the first page of a letter on letterhead, switching to plain paper for the following pages, addressing an envelope, and finally generating an e-mail message for Eudora or Claris Emailer with body text from the letter pasted into it.

Version 1.03 has a drawback, and trust me to run straight into it! This version does not work with Apple's LaserWriter 8.4 driver. Fixes are promised for future versions. This is barely a loss – I am fairly frustrated with LaserWriter 8.4 and would happily retrofit 8.3 for the sake of this little helper.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive.html**

## THE MACINTOSH EASTER EGG LIST

Better than games are Easter Eggs, the little undocumented features programmers love to hide in their applications. The list from HyperArchive culminates untold hours of toil spent by Macnics around the world, idling through their programs and testing ›


SUPER HIGHWAYS
DEMAND
SUPER PROTECTION
VET anti-viral software gives super protection to PCs on the superhighway.
The result of constant leading-edge anti-virus research, VET has one of the highest virus detection and removal rates in the business. Its incredibly fast scanning algorithm requires minimal overheads, minimal memory, & minimal CPU cycles.
VET is easy to install and virus protection is automatic. As the superhighway gets bigger and more hectic, we'll keep pace with FREE updates and free phone support for a whole year.
For super protection on the super highway, install VET. Enquire direct from Cybec, the software's authors, on FREECALL 1300 364 750.
Government Endorsed Supplier
Supporting Australian Business
VET
it first

› key combinations nobody mentioned. The file is 387K, so have patience. Daniel Fenton, who compiled the list, challenges anybody to find an 'egg' he has missed.

Did you know, for example, that while playing QuickTime in Apple's SimplePlayer or MoviePlayer, you can hold down the *Shift* key and double-click inside the main window to play the movie and sound backwards? Most of the Easter Eggs are a lot weirder than that. Why would you want to play knock-knock jokes with Speech Recognition 1.4.1, for example? Obviously, some do.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/info/apple-easter-eggs-14.hqx**

## THE WELL CONNECTED MAC

Now for a download you won't regret, elementary as it is. From The Well Connected Mac you can download its set of Vendor FTP Bookmarks that point to third-party vendor sites. These FTP sites are the source of upgrades and demonstration software as well as tech support libraries, and they include almost every Mac hardware and software vendor you are likely to deal with. The download took me all of 10 seconds. Time well spent. The bookmarks come in both Anarchie and Fetch formats. You can find them directly at ‹http://www.macfaq.com/bookmarks.sit.hqx›.

The Well Connected Mac is also one of the more vibrant hangouts for Mac people. Lots of other software is shown here, along with candid commentary.

**http://www.macfaq.com**

## PLAY IT COOL

Young Russell Clarke was programming seriously before his teens, and his Play it Cool is better than Apple's own MoviePlayer for QuickTime. It plays more smoothly and adds a host of features including simple movie editing. Play it Cool gives you detailed statistics about the movie, tracks, data rate and so forth. It allows you to crop, export sound, and build a standalone movie application that can be played back without any player at all. Play it Cool is a favourite on shareware sites around the world.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive.html**

## THE ULTIMATE APPLE SEARCH

I treasure this site. The guys running it have true passion and keep it alive with the latest news, opinion, and of course software downloads. I really don't want to point to a single download because unlike the many large FTP sites, The Ultimate Apple Search stays fresh so that any download I mention today

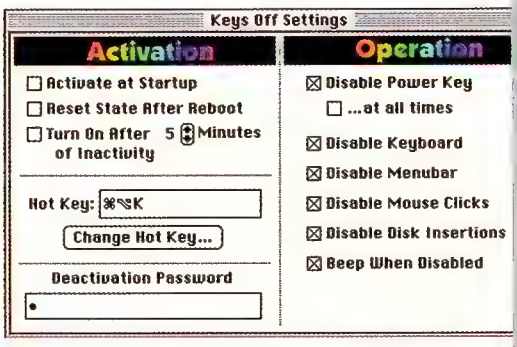
will be superseded tomorrow. Simply go there frequently to see what's hot.

I downloaded Kaleidoscope 1.05Beta, a substantial improvement to the Macintosh interface and a forerunner of future Apple flavours. Delicately contoured windows surround and colour schemes lift the general appearance of your desktop, and it is a relief to get away from the Chicago System font once in a while. Kaleidoscope is clean, only a control panel and a set of extensions for the colour schemes. To un-install it, disable or remove the control panel. Habitually cautious and protective of my standard Mac OS, I tried to un-install Kaleidoscope but couldn't.

**http://www.ultimate-apple.com**

## KEYS OFF

It's unpretentious and simple, and certainly not tamper-proof, but what the heck, this utility is handy. Keys Off disables your keyboard, mouse clicks, disk drive, and/or menu bar using your personal hot key. It began life when teachers begged for ways to keep busy hands off their teaching device, but today it aids families and anyone in a work group. When a graphic artist commences an hour-long rendering job, the last thing she wants is for someone to touch that Mac before it completes its task.




Presenters in crowded rooms can beat off busybodies before they trash the presentation.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/cfg/keys-off-11.hqx**

## PROVIDING INTERNET SERVICES VIA THE MAC OS

This is for the more sophisticated user, or at least one struggling with networks and Internet connections. Carl Steadman and Jason Snell have written a book, *Providing Internet Services via the Mac OS*, and an online version is available from this site. The foreword is by the doyen of Macintosh Internet, Peter N Lewis, who created some of our best shareware. The online version is a splendiferous download for those wanting to establish Internet services, e-mail in a group setting, or server sites.

Technically first-rate, it is also concise and comparatively easy reading. Above all, you gain appreciation of what the Macintosh can achieve in this realm – there is a lot of misinformation out there.

**http://www.pism.com**

## APPLE INTERNET MAIL SERVER

One side effect of reading *Providing Internet Services via the Mac OS* might be to try the Apple Internet Mail Server (AIMS), one of those unheralded and officially 'unsupported' free downloads from Apple which deserve more recognition. Bare bones but effective, it puts a network of users onto the Internet mail backbone in no time. AIMS comes with no documentation, which is why you need the Steadman & Snell download to get off the ground. AIMS works alone but also with Eudora as the client, and user reports have been glowing. One said, "I set up 50 mail accounts in 30 minutes".

Another reason to collect it now is that it will be the last free version. A version 2.0 is rumoured from Apple early next year, much improved and with what you could justifiably call an interface (the present one is bland and cryptic in the extreme), but they will charge for it.

**http://www.apple.com**

## 300 REASONS THE MAC IS GREAT

A Mac selection wouldn't be complete without the customary Macintosh bigotry, religion or infatuation. Whatever you call it, Adam Engst of TidBits collated this list of 300 Reasons the Mac is Great to celebrate his 300th issue of the online newsletter. The serious and frivolous travel side by side in this listing, much of it provocative and irreverent. Example: "Aliases that work, as opposed to Shortcuts that don't." (Take that, Windows 95).

**ftp://mirrors.aol.com/pub/info-mac/_Periodical/_TidBITS/tidbits-300.etx**

## MIT'S INFO-MAC HYPERARCHIVE

This is where most Mac lovers go for their FTP. There are many others, but none greater. Info-Mac has several mirror sites and a huge collection of downloadable software, all with brief descriptions. However, unless you know what you want, it's probably easier to browse through a big Web site such as MacInTouch, Mac Orchard, SiteLink or The Ultimate Apple Search. Still, you can't beat Info-Mac for one-stop shopping.

**http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive.html**

## APPLE TECH INFO LIBRARY

Arguably the most extensive library any computer maker has provided to the public, the Apple Tech Info Library makes up for the often mediocre support you get from dealers and the local tech support department. Searchable and online, this is true 24-hour support, although too sophisticated for the novice. These are real tech notes.

**http://til.info.apple.com/til/til.html**

## THE MAC ORCHARD

The venerable Orchard keeps a well-documented and extensive collection of shareware, but it is particularly strong on Internet software in all shapes and sizes.

**http://www.spectra.net/~dsaur/orchard.html**

## SITELINK:BEST OF THE WEB FOR MACINTOSH

One of the better stop-offs for Mac users is SiteLink, with its broad menu of software pointers, news, resources, reference and e-zine pointers. Visiting this site is like dropping into a Trash and Treasure store. They tell you what's hot and always have new suggestions for downloads. You can't go wrong.

**http://www.tiac.net/users/jbrochu/SiteLink.shtml**

## MACOS SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE GUIDE

Quite new, this resource site from Apple Computer itself gives you rapid access to software and hardware in all categories from commercial vendors, and it includes some shareware.

**http://www.macsoftware.apple.com**

## MACINTOUCH

Ric Ford's site always has a smattering of the hottest updates and download information, not large, but focused and steered along by one of the most knowledgeable people in the business.

**http://www.macintouch.com**

## FLIGHT UNLIMITED

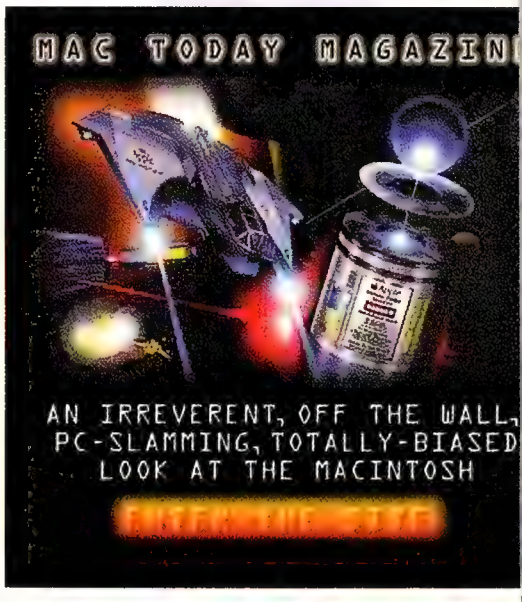
I had some doubts about including this game download. Not that it isn't good – some describe it as "the coolest flight simulator I have seen in a long time" – but are you ready for a 13Mb download? Thirteen megabytes! And that is for a payable demo version. The download is from IMG or Looking Glass. I discovered it at the Ultimate Macintosh.

**http://www.best.com/~myee/ultimate_mac.html**

## MAC TODAY MAGAZINE

I wish they'd cut down on the graphics. Nice site, but it takes too long.

**http://mactoday.com** ■



# A *vivid* imagination

Nathan Shedroff is the co-founder and creative director of Vivid Studios, a team of Internet 'experience architects'. He has worked on projects for a number of high-profile organisations including Bell Atlantic, Sony, Bank of America, The Well, J. Walter Thompson and the Microsoft Windows 95 Launch. Shedroff was a guest speaker at the Australasian Interactive Multimedia Industry Association conference in October.

**[ANG]** Has the convergence of print, TV and radio created a new medium that requires a totally different approach in terms of design?
**[Shedroff]** There are definitely elements of these you can apply. Anyone who is a producer of radio or television will find a great deal of commonality when moving into online media because the work has to be fresh and interest has to be maintained over a period of time. The one thing that is different is interaction. Television is not an interactive medium and radio is interactive only to a small extent. Unfortunately, there hasn't been that much 'interactive' interactive media so far. That is where we are now.

**[ANG]** Is that because of limitations in technology or in design vision?
**[Shedroff]** A little bit of both, but more a lack of vision than anything else, although the technology is definitely something to consider. It is not easy to build an interactive site, but most people don't because they don't have a very good idea of what interactivity is in the first place. They think it's about dynamic media, media that moves like animation or video as opposed to what interaction is all about.

**[ANG]** How will sound and video change the dynamics of Web page design?

**[Shedroff]** Sound will have a bigger impact than video I think. Sound is an interesting medium because it has such evocative qualities – its ability to create a mood, a setting, and these things will be incorporated sooner than other things. Video is *so* performance intensive, especially good video. People are used to bad sound in their lives, like the telephone or television, but they are not used to bad video. TV is pretty good video. We can do sound pretty badly already [laughs]. Actually we can do it pretty well, but we can't do video on the Web and we won't be able to for years to come, just because the performance isn't there. Downloading a 15-

second clip of video is not a very interesting experience. Sites that start talking to you when they come up or start playing sounds are already being created and are going to have a big impact.

**[ANG]** Do you think the Net will end up just like TV in the long term?
**[Shedroff]** No, absolutely not, because if all the programming of the sites becomes like television, then people will choose television over them because TV has better production qualities – it will stream by you without your having to press the remote. What's unique about the Web is interaction and as soon as we start doing some interactive things I think people will respond really well. People are interactive by nature. I would not use what is on the Web at the moment as an indication of where the Web is going. The great thing about the Web is that it connects lots of people. The Web is more like a telephone than a television because at its heart is interaction. In the future, you'll be communicating more, you'll be doing more creating and producing, and it will be a lot more personal than television.

**[ANG]** Do you ever feel you are designing for an audience who is not familiar with the visual language of the Web?
**[Shedroff]** No, we haven't really felt like that. It's true that television is decades old, which is a long time to develop a language, a visual language of what's going on, and there hasn't been as much in the computer world. Two factors have insulated us for the moment though. One is that most people on the Web are fairly literate computer users simply because they have to use the computer and negotiate with an ISP for service, which is *so* foreign. This means that everyone who gets out there has already been through a training program, for better or for worse. The other thing is that the technology is still so primitive, you can't do very much that is that confusing. The confusion that people experience on the Web has more to do with content and the organisation of that content.

**[ANG]** How do you make a site that looks good but is quick to download?
**[Shedroff]** Performance is incredibly important because a site can be gorgeous, it can be award-winning and beautiful to look at, but if it takes longer than a minute to download, they'll never see it because they won't wait. There are a lot of little tricks you can use. There are certain tags in HTML to make things appear faster than they actually are because you are giving them content and layout before all the pictures come in.

I think the sites that tend to negotiate that balance better are those that go towards a bolder, simpler approach, a clearer approach. Whether they are using more white space, (whether it's white or not), and using visual styles that compress more, but do more with less. So maybe the quality of the illustration is better, even though it's only small, and maybe there are only two of them on a page as opposed to a whole bunch. The layout of elements on a page becomes so much more critical because you are probably using small pieces and fewer of them, so you tend towards design that works well with that kind of boldness or starkness, or repeated imagery, or whatever.

The design quality on the Web has gone up astronomically from just 12 months ago. The illustration quality, the photo quality, everything has elevated which is really challenging, but really nice to see.

**[ANG]** What is the reason for this?
**[Shedroff]** More the fact that designers are becoming involved, but also because the people who administer sites and produce them, and specifically the clients, are becoming more concerned, more aware of design in general. They are no longer satisfied with the hack or generic design of twelve months ago when they were just happy to get a site up.

**[ANG]** Using metaphors for site design is a technique popular with designers. How do you avoid becoming clichéd?
**[Shedroff]** I think by not using a metaphor! I am not a big fan of metaphors. I think they are usually more limiting than they are familiarising. Metaphors aren't a bad place to start to generate ideas in a brainstorming sense, but I have never really been that impressed with any metaphor I've seen. I think the better structured sites come out of more interesting exploration into the client organisation. Using information design techniques you usually get to a better place than using metaphors. Why should a site be organised like a zoo or a hotel? It's kind of superfluous.

**[ANG]** What are the big issues for designers in terms of browser technology?
**[Shedroff]** We have to deal with America Online browsers as well here, which are nowhere near as capable as either Explorer or Navigator. At the beginning of each project we ask our clients to describe their audience. We then figure out what browsers we need to be compatible with. We have a couple of sites that are smart enough to serve out different pages to people coming in from different browsers, which is at least a solution.

**[ANG]** What do you get out of speaking at conferences like AIMIA?
**[Shedroff]** I get to travel which is very nice. I think what is valuable to me are the Q&A times. Just being exposed to other people's issues and ideas, and especially being exposed to them in other cultures or in locations that aren't the same as mine... I would love to go and speak in Kenya or somewhere where there is a completely different culture and completely different concerns – Vietnam for instance, because it allows us to challenge our own assumptions.

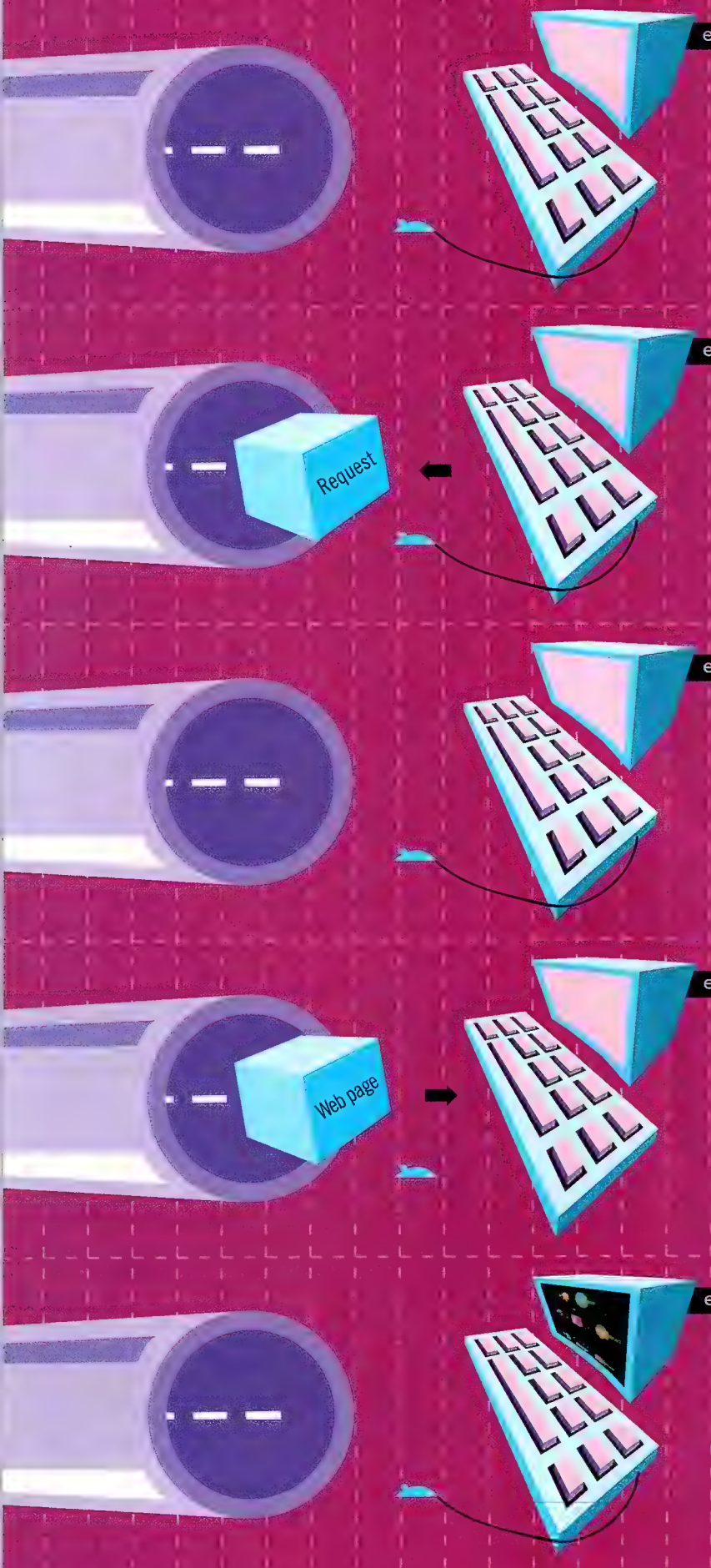
**[ANG]** Which Australian Web designers or companies do you admire?
**[Shedroff]** I probably know sites more than companies. News Interactive has done a great job with the News Classifieds site. The Beyond 2000 site is another. One of my favourite designers (who has just gone freelance) is a young guy in Melbourne called David Trewern. He does *beautiful* work. Really wonderful.

**[ANG]** Okay Nathan, thanks for your time.
**[Shedroff]** Thanks. I hear it is a beautiful day today in Sydney.
**[ANG]** Yes, there are even some Microsoft clouds in the sky.
**[Shedroff]** [Laughs]. Do they have little trademark symbols next to them? ■

http://www.vivid.com

# how the internet works

# Retrieving a Web page




The Web Server is idle, waiting for a request from any user on the Internet. The end user clicks on a hyperlink that points to the Web server. The user's browser looks at the URL and prepares an HTTP request for that material.

The user's computer looks at the server address in the URL and generates a TCP/IP packet which includes the HTTP request for the page from the server. That request is sent out across the Internet. The routers along the way direct the packet using the IP addressing.

The arrival of the request triggers the Web server. It opens up a session to handle the request. The end user's computer is now idle as it waits for the response.

The Web server checks the request. If the request is valid, it collects the material specified in the HTTP request from its file storage system.

The Web server then packages up the material requested by the user in a TCP/IP packet using the address recorded in the HTTP request, and sends it out over the Internet to the user. It doesn't check the material, it just sends it. The routers along the way direct the packet to the user's computer.

The user's computer receives the material from the Web server. It decodes the TCP/IP and passes the HTTP contained in the packet to the Web browser. The Web browser decodes the HTTP response and, using the HTML in the file, displays the file on the screen. The Web sever is again idle, waiting for the next request.

EUDORA™

# Getting started with Eudora Lite and Eudora Pro

**E-mail is one of the most used applications on the Net. It's a cheap and effective way to keep in touch with work colleagues at head office, or friends backpacking their way around the world. Here, we take a close look at Eudora, an e-mail client that's easy to configure and use.**

[by Robert Kirwan]

Through the generosity of, firstly, the University of Illinois, and then Qualcomm, many people have free access to a professional-quality e-mail client called Eudora Lite. Qualcomm also markets Eudora Pro which provides extra functionality for a street price of around $110.

Both Eudora Lite and Pro are available in Windows (3.x and 95/NT) and Mac OS versions. The freeware Lite version along with documentation can be downloaded from Qualcomm's Eudora site (http://www.eudora.com). Pro users who wish to get information on the latest version 3.0 upgrade or to get maintenance upgrades to the Windows version 2.2 or Mac version 2.1.4 should visit the Australian distributor's site (Lidcam Technology) at http://www.lidcam.com.au or contact info@lidcam.com.au.

## CONFIGURATION

After you have installed Eudora, you will need to provide certain configuration information in order to send and receive mail. We will use Bill User with an account at Bigisp P/L to show how this is done.

1. The first time you run Eudora you will be presented with the *Options* dialog. If this doesn't appear then simply invoke it from the *Tools>Options* menu. With the Getting Started category selected, enter your POP account. Generally your POP account and e-mail address will be the same. For example, ‹buser@bigisp.com.au›, however there can be other variations such as ‹buser@popa.bigisp.com.au› or ‹buser@mail.bigisp.com.au›.

You can also enter your real name, which will appear at the top of your mail along side your e-mail address. The connection method, in the majority of cases, will be the default, that is, Winsock .

2. Select the *User Category*. Your POP account and Real Name will be carried over from the previous dialog. Your return address nominates where replies to your mail will be sent. In most cases, this will be the same as your POP account and so can be left blank.

Leave the *Dialup Username* blank. This is used in those rare cases when someone logs in using a shell account with a different login name.

3. Select the *Hosts Category*. Here, we must complete the SMTP address. Incoming e-mail is received from a POP

(Post Office Protocol) server, whereas outgoing e-mail is handled by a SMTP (Simple Mail Transport Protocol) server. Enter the address of your SMTP server. This will generally be in the form ‹mail.bigisp.com.au› or ‹smtp.bigisp.com.au›.

Leave the Ph and Finger server addresses blank as this is for advanced Phonebook and Finger queries and will default to the SMTP server.

4. That's it as far as the critical information goes. Other options are available but you can generally accept the defaults and get on with the business of e-mailing. Nevertheless, here is a quick rundown on some of the other categories and options.

**Checking Mail**: Check for mail every _ minutes: if set to 0 (the default), Eudora will only check for mail when first connected. To check for mail on a regular basis, enter a number.
**Send on Check:** if checked (the default), any mail you have queued will be sent when Eudora checks for mail.
**Save password:** if checked, Eudora will retain your password for future access. Only check this if your computer is secure from other users.
**Leave mail on server:** this would usually remain unchecked. Otherwise mail will accumulate on your server and you will eventually run out of space or your mail may be overwritten.
**Attachments:** E-mail is, of course, simple ASCII text. To send files which aren't composed of simple text, for example, images or word processing documents, the data needs to be encoded before being transmitted. Generally MIME (the default) is the best bet, BinHex is usually supported by older e-mailing clients.
**Dialup:** Most users will connect to their Internet Service Provider (ISP) using a separate Winsock application. However, if you want Eudora to be able to dial your ISP, you must complete the *Dialup* options. This requires some configuration of the SERIAL.NAV and SERIAL.MOD files, so I would suggest getting the online manual from the Eudora site. Pro users can turn to their manuals appendix.

If you're using the Pro version of Eudora there are a number of additional configuration options available, such as labels, spell checking and MAPI (Windows users). Generally, you can happily accept the default settings until you become more familiar with using Eudora. The Messaging Application Program Interface (MAPI) option is certainly worth a look. It allows you to use any MAPI compliant program to send e-mail attachments to Eudora.

## SENDING A MESSAGE

With the configuration out of the way, we are now ready to e-mail.

1. To begin a new e-mail message, click on the *New Message* tool button or use the *Message>New Message* menu options.

2. Fill in the *To:* field with the e-mail address of the intended recipient, for example, ‹sclaus@northpole.com›. For those you will be e-mailing frequently, add their details to the nicknames list using the nicknames tool button or the *Tools>Nicknames* menu options. The *Nicknames* dialog can also be used to start new messages or tag nicknames (right-click) for inclusion on the *Quick Recipient List*. Once a name is tagged for this list it can be used through the *Message>New Message To/Reply To/Forward To/Redirect To* menu options.

3. Give the message a meaningful tag with the *Subject:* field.
4. If you wish others to also receive the message, enter their e-mail addresses in the *Cc:* or *Bcc:* fields. Bcc (blind carbon copy) differs from Cc (carbon copy) in that the listed recipients don't appear in the header attached to your e-mail when it is sent. Multiple addresses are separated with commas.
5. You can attach other files to your e-mail using the *Attach File* button (Pro version only) or the *Message>Attach File* menu options. Drag and drop is also supported for attaching files.

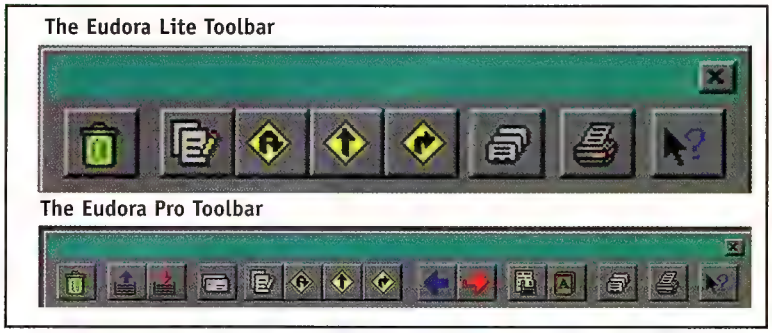
6. You are now ready to write the text that makes up the body of your message. When completed, Pro users can use the spell checking button or *Edit>Check Spelling* menu option.

7. The toolbar along the top of your e-mail allows you to quickly change other message-specific options such as message priority, attached file encoding, signature file (covered below) and mail receipts (Pro version). This toolbar also contains the *Send* button for forwarding your completed e-mail.

If you aren't connected to your server, then simply save your e-mail and it will be queued for forwarding next time you connect.

All e-mail that is sent can be viewed in the Out Mailbox. ›

› To view the Outbox, use the *Out Mailbox* tool button (Pro version) or *Mailbox>Out* menu options.




## RECEIVING A MESSAGE

When you first start Eudora it will attempt to connect to your POP server and retrieve any e-mail waiting for you, (if you're eager to test Eudora, just send e-mail to yourself). E-mail can also be retrieved using the *Check Mail* tool button (Pro users only) or the *File>Check Mail* menu options.

A summary of the mail you receive can be viewed through the Inbox. To open the Inbox, use the *In Mailbox* tool button (Pro version) or the *Mailbox>In* menu options.

The Inbox window displays whether e-mail is unread (a bullet), the mail priority, the author, the date, the size in kilobytes, and the subject. Pro users also have a file attachments column and a label column which is activated through message filtering. In the Pro version, each column is headed by a button. Clicking on this button quickly sorts the mail based on that button's field. Both Pro and Lite users can also sort e-mail by different fields using the *Edit>Sort* menu options.

To view individual mail, simply double click on the line describing the mail to be viewed.

## REPLIES AND FORWARDING

In some cases you will want to reply to, forward on or redirect mail. With the mail open and in the active window, any of these actions can be taken by selecting the appropriate toolbar button or by using the *Message>Reply/Forward/Redirect* menu options.

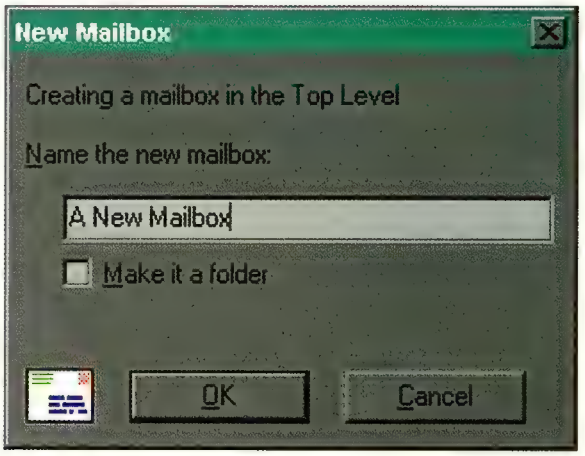
When you reply to or forward mail, a new window is opened and the text of the original mail is copied into the message area. This original mail text is distinguished as such by leading every line with a '>'. If you are forwarding mail, you must enter a new e-mail address. If you are replying to mail, this is automatically set to the address of the original author. You simply enter your reply and hit the *Send* button. If you wish to reply to all those that received a 'Cc' of the original message (a *Reply All*), then hold down the shift key when selecting *Reply*.

Redirected mail is akin to redirecting an unopened envelope. The only difference is that the final recipient will notice it is in the *From:* field which will contain both the original authors name and a 'by way of' reference to yourself.

## ORGANISING YOUR MAIL

Before long your 'Inbox' will become congested with mail. Of course you can delete what you don't want, (make sure you clear your Trash regularly or select the *Empty trash when exiting* configuration option), but there will always be a growing list of items to keep.

To organise your mail you can use mailboxes (which hold mail) and folders (which hold mailboxes) just as you




use folders on your hard drive to organise files and programs. Select the *Mailbox>New* menu option to create a new mailbox and check the *Make it a folder* option if you wish to create a folder.

To move mail to your new mailboxes, select a message and use the *Transfer* menu option. In fact, with Transfer you can even create new folders and mailboxes on the fly. To reorganise your mailboxes use the *Tools>Mailboxes* menu option.

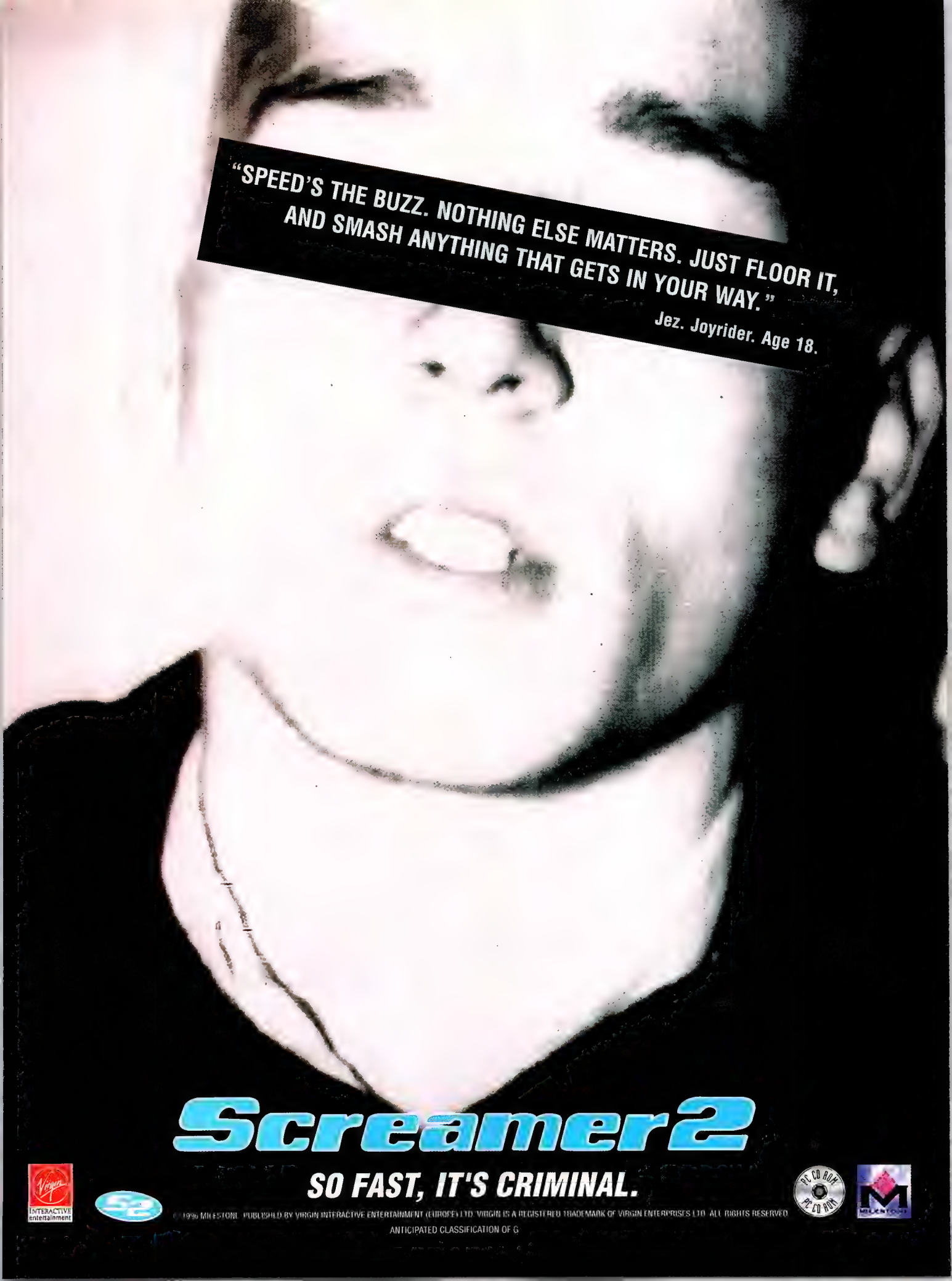
## OTHER E-MAIL ITEMS

There are a number of additional options within Eudora, which although not necessary for day-to-day e-mail survival, are nevertheless handy to know. This is a quick rundown on those options.

**Message Filtering (Pro only):** Message filtering (*Tools>Filters*) allows you to modify incoming and outgoing messages automatically. I use it to direct incoming mail to specific mailboxes, but it has a host of other uses. Read the manual if you think this may be of interest.

**Finding Text:** Use the *Edit>Find* menu option to search for specific text within one message or multiple messages and mailboxes.

**Signatures:** A 'signature' is a brief message automatically added to the end of outgoing mail. It usually contains your full name, e-mail address and other relevant contact information such as phone number, snail mail address et cetera. Often, ASCII art and a witty comment or quote is also included. It's considered bad form to make these signatures longer than four lines. To create a signature, use the *Tools>Signature* menu option. ■

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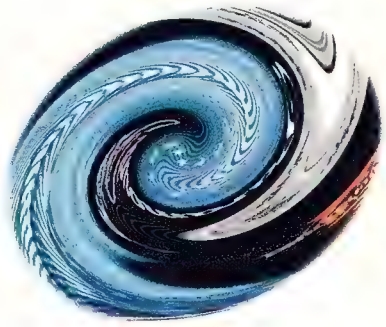
ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF G

# Plugging Warp into the Net



**IBM OS/2 Warp 4 has a range of new features and improvements. Not least of these is the way the operating system can access the Net. LAN and dial-up account users alike can take a Warped PC online in just a few steps.**

[by Julian Lincoln]

Warp 4 continues the tradition of integrating Internet functionality into the core OS. Internet services such as the TCP/IP stack, mail handlers, drivers and internal routers, and now even a Java compiler, are all part of the base product. Such an approach means that each Internet application need include less code, increasing its speed and reliability as well as providing more consistent performance and operation between different applications. Furthermore, it is easier to upgrade the Internet components, as Internet services are part of IBM's System Object Model (SOM) that enables modular upgrades of sections of the OS as required.

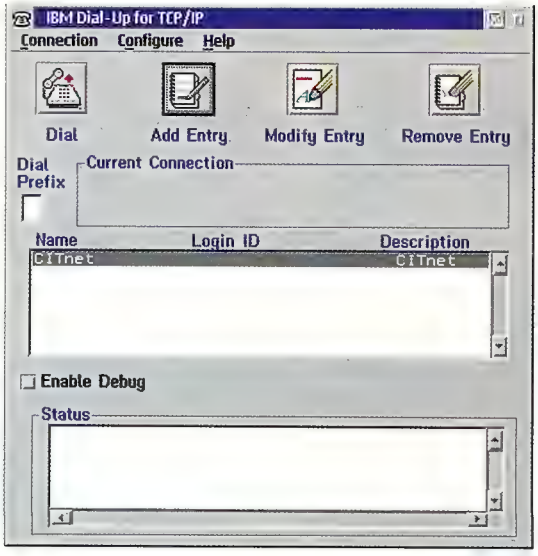
## GETTING ONLINE

Since most of the network software is part of the base product, getting online is relatively straightforward. OS/2 Warp 4 classifies users of Internet services into three broad categories: those connected to a LAN, dial-up users of IBM's own Global Internet service, and finally dial-up users of any ISP other than IBM.

Network users will find no difficulty in setting up Warp 4. The operating system auto-detects just about everything and you may only be required to enter your IP address, submask, network default route, nameserver addresses, and your local domain and machine names. Connecting to other network resources should be equally as simple. IBM touted OS/2 Warp 4 as "the universal network client" and no difficulties were experienced in connecting a Warped PC to a NetWare network and accessing NetWare and UNIX server resources simultaneously.

Subscribers to IBM Internet use the customised IBM Dialler, and it is easy to register online with IBM Internet through the registration program that ships with OS/2. Once registered, just run the IBM dialler, select the nearest modem bank and dial. IBM Internet is one of the few ISPs with points of presence in hundreds of cities around the world including all Australian capital cities and some regional centres. IBM Internet uses its own backbone with direct links to the USA so it is fast and reliable, and (unlike MSN) it is not a proprietary service.

For subscribers to any ISP other than IBM Global Internet, the *Dial other ISP* dialler is used. As this software is designed to work with all ISPs and not just one, it is by necessity a little more complex to set up. The dialler supports multiple connections (for accounts to several ISPs) and each connection has several pages of 'settings data' that can be filled in.

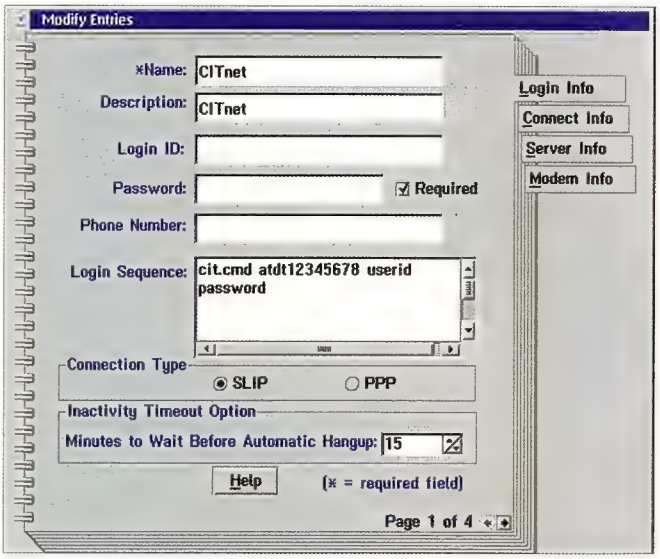


Most users of dial-up ISP accounts are assigned dynamic IP addresses (which change every time they log into their account) rather than the permanent variety. In this case the information required for 'permanent IP address' cannot be entered. A REXX connection script solves this problem, and most of the relevant details are specified in the script and not the dialler.

REXX is a scripting language, designed to make simple programming easier using common English words combined with OS/2 commands and general purpose programming and arithmetic constructs. REXX scripts are written in ordinary text files with the extension '.cmd' and can be executed like batch files or used in other programs such as the Internet Dialler. OS/2 includes extensive online material on the REXX scripting language.

The first settings page of the ISP entry in the dialler utility contains a large *login sequence* field. Once a script is entered many of the fields on the four settings pages are shadowed out, but some asterisked fields remain which require a value.

Several sample SLIP scripts are provided with Warp 4 and can be found in the 'C:\tcpip\bin' directory. There are scripts to do all sorts of interesting things, but we are concerned with those that connect your PC into a standard




'annex' terminal server. There are a few which do this, but the vanilla all purpose script is annex.cmd. With a few simple modifications it should be possible to make this script work with any service provider. The 'annex.cmd' script parses the phone number, User ID and password from the Internet dialler. However, instead of pulling these details from the relevant fields in the dialler as one might expect, they are added as parameters after the script name in the large *Login Sequence* field (on the first settings page). Thus this field would contain *annex.cmd, atdt12345678, user-id, password*.

There are two essential parts of the script that may need alteration – the modem initialisation strings or the login process. These parts of the script, in the top half, can be easily identified. Other parts of the script generally should not be modified. The script contains very little by way of modem initialisation strings, thus if the modem isn't connecting properly you may need to add a custom init string. The best place to insert this is just before the *dial the remote server* comment which is after *flush previous com activity*. Obviously the placement of the string is important! For example you may insert:

*call lineout, 'Reset modem...'*
*call send 'AT&F' || cr*

where *'AT&F'* could be replaced with a special string for your modem.

A more likely cause of difficulty is the login sequence, which is immediately following in the annex.cmd script. The login sequence in the script must match the sequence of your ISP's terminal server. The annex.cmd script caters for a common scenario: waiting for 'Connect' and the username prompt to appear. The *Wait For* command may need to be changed from *Call Waitfor Connect* to *Call Waitfor Annex* (or service, or whatever prompt first appears when you connect to your ISP). The order of prompts may need to be altered, as whilst most service providers ask for the User ID first, some (such as OzEmail) actually ask for the service first, in which case the script must be altered accordingly. It may also be necessary to drop the 'u' from 'username' and 'p' from 'password' in the Call Wait For functions - not in the actual command that is sent, just the prompt that the script is looking for. Finally always check that the case of the Call Wait For – routines in the script matches the case of the terminal server. Mostly modifying the script should be a simple cut-and-paste exercise, ensuring that the script mirrors the terminal server step by step.

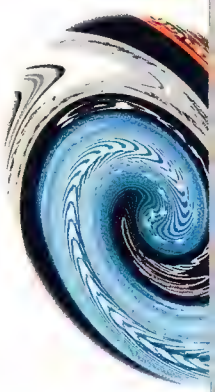
Check with your ISP if you are having difficulties. They may already have an OS/2 script set up to work with their system, or at the least should be able to provide you with the details required to alter the annex.cmd script. (Users of OzEmail can find a custom script at ‹http://www.ozemail.com.au/ozemail/css/kbase/login.htm›. This script is slightly different from the annex.cmd script in that no argu- ›

### IBM'S OS/2 WARP 4

OS/2 Warp 4 (codenamed Merlin during development) is the latest version of IBM's 32-bit crash-proof operating system for PCs. In addition to general improvements to the core operating system (and a fantastic new user interface), Warp 4 includes many notable features such as voice control and dictation, and Java integration into the OS, which sets this operating system apart.

Warp 4 will run any OS/2, DOS and Windows 3.11 application, and in addition contains an extensive library of Win32s making porting software from Win95 to OS/2 easy. Warp 4 supports True Type Fonts, Open Doc and Silicon Graphics' OpenGL API.

**http://www.ibm.com**



› ments are passed to it from the login sequence field in the dialler, as the phone number, User ID and password are actually stored in the script file. Thus to get this script working you will need to insert the phone number of your local OzEmail modem bank and your user details. The modem initialisation string may also need alterations as for the annex.cmd script.)

Take a look at some of the other '.cmd' scripts in the 'C:\tcpip\bin' directory as one of the varieties may be closer to your ISP's terminal server than the annex script. If you spend some time going through the scripts you will find that they are heavily commented and fairly straightforward. Again, whilst modifications to the connection process are fine, the subsequent code that parses the IP address and performs internal routing should not need to be altered in the normal case. One situation where a further alteration is required is if your ISP uses a default netmask of something other than *255.255.255.0*. This setting can be found further down in the script.

## INTERNET APPLICATIONS

Warp 4 contains a myriad of Internet applications and for most provides two copies, one for LAN users and another for modem dial-up users. Apart from this difference the programs are exactly the same. WebExplorer, IBM's own Web browser, has lost most of its status now due to the release of a version of Netscape for OS/2. The IBM Software home page contains a downloadable beta (http://www.software.ibm.com) of Netscape.

OS/2 comes with UltiMail Lite, a very flexible although slow e-mail program, which supports drag-and-drop file inclusions. ftpPM is an excellent FTP utility with a clear and very easy to use interface. Also included are several other standard applications such as telnet, newsreader, gopher, ping and so on. Warp 4 also includes icons for text-based versions of many of the apps which provide an interface similar to a UNIX shell account.

Warp 4 also uses Internet templates for common Internet functions. In essence an icon is created to represent a common task or process. For example, the telnet template creates an icon to represent the connection to a particular telnet host, fully configured with all your preferences. The FTP Host template is of particular use, as it represents a directory on an FTP server, thus uploading data is as simple as dragging the files onto the FTP icon! Various other templates can be created for HTML files, URLs and even Java Applets. Internet templates can be found in the *Internet Templates* folder (*System* > *Templates* > *Internet Templates*).

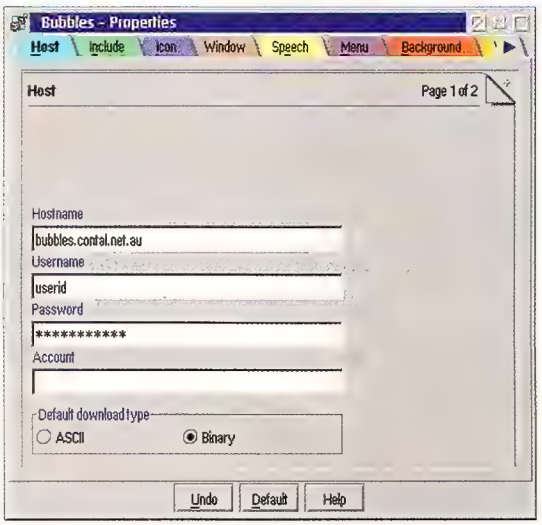
IBM provides free updates to many of the Internet utilities and sometimes to the base Internet components of the operating system. The retrieve software updates icon takes you to a site which contains all the latest updates, fixes and drivers for a variety of products, including the Internet components of Warp.

Naturally, there are many other Internet applications available for OS/2. PMMail and PostRoad Mailer are two popular e-mail programs that seem to run a lot faster than UltiMail Lite. FTP utilities, newsreaders, IRC applications, HTML editors, add-ons for WebExplorer and so on are all available; check out the many OS/2 Web pages, FTP sites and newsgroups. ■

*Julian Lincoln is from Verilux Systems, Web site designers and consultants.*
*http://www.verilux.com.au*
*jlincoln@verilux.com.au*

### SITES FOR THE WARPED AT HEART

**Hobbes**
**http://hobbes.nmsu.edu**
**IBM OS/2 Warp and Connect Home Page**
**http://www.austin.ibm.com/pspinfo**
**os2too.html**
**Merlin home page**
**http://www.austin.ibm.com/pspinfo/os2.html.**
**IBM Software home page**
**http://www.software.ibm.com**
**IBM home page**
**http://www.ibm.com**
**Team OS/2 Online**
**http://www.teamos2.org**
**Team OS/2 Austria**
**http://www.os2forum.or.at/TeamOS2/English**
**OS/2 e-zine**
**http://www.haligonian.com/os2**
**OS/2 Internet Resources**
**http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/~kasturi/os2.html**
**OS/2 Desktop Hints**
**http://www.unc.edu/~jbjjr/desktop/objdesk.htm**
**SBT Information Systems**
**http://www.ozemail.com.au/~sbt**
**Multitask Consulting**
**http://www.multitask.com.au**



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3. Universal Connect: Automatically connects with other modems at their highest speeds. Supports all international standards and popular proprietary protocols.

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1. User configurable Dialback and link security. Protects both Synchronous and Asynchronous data transmissions.
2. Austel Approved for maximum performance under Australian Conditions.
3. Backward compatible with all earlier ITU-T and Bell standards.

### TECHNICAL ADVANTAGE

1. FlashROM Upgradable to V.34 bis and Future Standards: Reduce Pit Stops to a minimum with the Courier FlashROM Upgrade. Upgrade your Courier to future speeds and standards on the run. Download the latest FlashROM from our Internet Web site or BBS, and get upgraded in the comfort of your own home in under 1 minute.
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3. 16bit Technology utilising the USRobotics Chipset DSP and Data Pump, for higher performance.

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**Web Address:**
www.modemconnection.com.au

# Raise your Web profile

## Tell the world about your site

**You think you've got a cool site and you want to show it off, right? Getting your site registered with directories and search engines is easy and can mean the difference between having a popular site, or one that fades into obscurity.** [by Nicole Manktelow]

You've slaved long and hard over a hot HTML editor and your Web page is now up and running. The time has come to show it off to the world. The key to raising the profile of your Web page is making sure people know your site exists. The best way to do this is to register with directories and search engines, and exchange links with other sites.

### CRAWLERS, SPIDERS AND ROBOTS

Crawlers, spiders and robots are the names given to search engines that work their way through a site, indexing all the adjoining pages and content on them. AltaVista, WebCrawler, HotBot are examples of these. They are ideal for looking up particular phrases, and documents mentioning specific people. They can also be controlled by various commands which users enter into the search string inquiry box.

At AltvaVista, you could search for *link:www.myisp.com.au /~name* to find pages that have links to your site. And, so you don't count your own pages, you could also add *-host:www.myisp.com.au/~name'* which 'subtracts' pages at that host address. For example, typing in: *link:netguide.aust.com -host:netguide.aust.com* will find all the sites that link to *ANG*.

The following crawlers are all good choices to list your site, but test them out first to make sure your site has not already been included. This can happen if another listed Web site includes a link to yours. When the crawler in question updates its listings, it may follow the link from that site to your page.

### META TAGS

**You can create a specific description of your site that can be used by search engines (especially the crawler-style ones). You can do this by using the META tag in the HTML of your page. The META tag allows you to write your description, and list keywords within the HEAD tags of the document, without it appearing on the Web page when viewed through a browser.**

### FOR EXAMPLE:

```
<HEAD>
<TITLE>A Shrine to Crowded House</TITLE>
<META name="description" content="A tribute to the phenomenal Australian band Crowded House.">
<META name="keywords" content="Crowded House, Neil Finn, Nick Seymour, Paul Hester, Mark Hart, Tim Finn, Split Enz, Australian music, Temple of Low Men, Woodface, Together Alone">
</HEAD>
```

### WEBCRAWLER

All you need to do to get WebCrawler to look at your site is to fill out an online form. You can submit nine URLs on the one form. Submitted sites will be added to the database two weeks later.

**http://www.webcrawler.com**

**Add site at: http://www.webcrawler.com/WebCrawler /SubmitURLS.htm**

### HOTBOT

HotBot regularly updates its database of existing sites, so if one of its known sites has a link to your home page, it won't be too long before HotBot knows about it. Nevertheless, if you want to add your site, you can. Just enter the URL and your e-mail address.

**http://www.hotbot.com**

**Add site at: http://www.hotbot.com/full/addurl.htm**

### INFOSEEK

To submit your page to Infoseek you should send an e-mail to ‹www-request@infoseek.com› with the URL in the body of the message.

The search engine displays the title of your Web page (that is, the text between the <TITLE> tags in the HTML of the page) and also prints the first 200 characters of text on your page. Make sure the title of your page is filled in (correctly) and that the first few lines of your page are what you'd like people to read in the directory.

Alternatively, you can use META tags to provide a description of your site through Infoseek. See the extensive guidelines at the site for more information. Infoseek also makes a special note that some Web servers have a robots.txt file which prevents their users' pages from being indexed. If your ISP has one of these, your site cannot be added to Infoseek. (You can check this in your browser by typing in the address of the ISP followed by */robots.txt*, for example: *http://www.myisp.com.au/robots.txt*).

**http://www.infoseek.com**

### ALTAVISTA

Just type in the URL and hit *Submit* to enter your page at AltaVista. The page is immediately viewed and added to the index, and according to the information at the site, will be available in about one day. (So don't try to add your site

in advance before it's actually up on the Web). From that point on your page can be explored by AltaVista's spider for adjoining pages and links, but no time frame is given for this process.

If you don't want the entire site to be indexed by the spider, AltaVista recommend setting up a robot.txt file, as per the method specified on the *Submit New URL* page.

**http://www.altavista.digital.com and also**
**http://www.altavista.yellowpages.com.au**

### DIRECTORIES

Rather than indexing all the content at a site, directories will attempt to list what the site is about and pigeon hole it into the relevant category. Directories are a good way to find information about topics and themes, since you'll find whole sites devoted to a topic, rather than sites where the words you searched for have appeared.

### YAHOO!

Possibly the best known directory on the Net, it is often the first stop for new and experienced Net users alike, particularly when the task is to hunt down a specific topic.

The only drawback to the site is that it is organised from a US point of view, so Australian sites are often buried within its listings, or relegated to the 'regional' section. Nevertheless, listing your site with Yahoo! is worthwhile.

When you submit your URL at Yahoo! you are given the choice as to which category the site should appear under. If you have a page that is distinctly about Australia or for Australian users you can choose to have it listed under Regional. If not, submit it under whichever category fits best. To add your site you'll have to provide the URL, title and a 20-word or less description. You can state whether or not your site uses Java.

### BECOMING A NEW AUSTRALIAN SITE

If you flick to page 109, the New Australian Sites section of *ANG*, you'll see just a fraction of the sites listed at the Australian Internet Directory. This is an online, searchable directory of commercial and private Australian Web pages, To list your page in the directory just go to the site and fill in the form.

**http://www.widewest.com.au/directry**

### AUSTRALIAN WEB DIRECTORY

The Australian Web Directory is part of several directories set up at Web publisher Sofcom. Anyone can add their site to the directory, with the proviso the host computer must be in Australia. Just add the URL, the name of the organisation and/or department, give a short description of the site and pick the most appropriate category.

**http://www.sofcom.com.au/Directories**
**Add site at: http://www.sofcom.com.au/Directories/AddURL.htm**

### MATILDA SEARCH ENGINE

The Matilda Search Engine is a little differen from the rest. It's free for non-commercial sites, but will cost commercial users $US23 a year to be listed. It also takes great pains to ensure sites with sexual and adult themes are listed as such. Besides giving their postal address and telephone number, users listing their sites complete a form with very specific ratings for adult themes.

**http://www.aaa.com.au**
**Add site at: http://www.aaa.com.au/linkform.htm**

### ALL-IN-ONE

The spirit of Net enterprise is alive and well with sites such as Submit-it, which offers to take the pain out of getting your site into the various search engines and directories. There is a free version of the service, which will submit your site to 15 Internet catalogues, but if you subscribe to the Gold or Pro version of Submit-it, your site will be registered with 150 or so directories.

**http://www.submit-it.com**

### THE BUDDY SYSTEM

It is common to link to information on other sites, so choose sites you like, or ones that are related to your own in some way. For example, if you're compiling an image archive or gallery at your site, you may consider links to sound file sites. If you're building a page to showcase your favourite chocolate recipes, you may link to another choc-a-holic's page or recipe archive. Whichever pages you decide on, e-mail the Web masters and invite them to check out your efforts. Ask them how they'd feel about including a link, and offer to return the favour.

If you're a hobbyist or enthusiast you may already know of club sites where members' pages will gladly be listed. You can also notify specialist and interest groups on the Net through newsgroups. Remember to check the name of the newsgroup to make sure it's the most appropriate for your announcement. And be short, sharp and sweet – people just need to know the site is there and what it's about (preferably one or two sentences). Type in the full URL so users with news readers that can recognise links are able to click and go straight there.

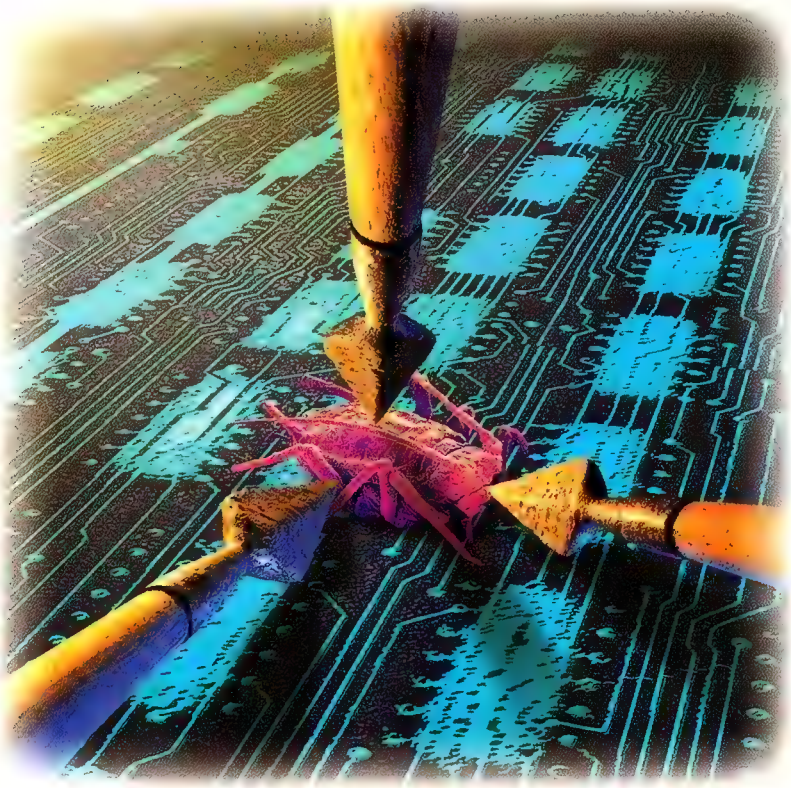
### LINK EXCHANGE: FREE WEB ADVERTISING

The Internet Link Exchange is a service or public program where sites can advertise free across other sites. If you advertise a number of sites from the Link Exchange program, the same number of other sites will advertise yours. Users get to pick what sort of site they are advertised on, and what sort of sites they will advertise on their pages (to make sure there's no inappropriate advertising).

**http://www.linkexchange.com**

*Find out how to use search engines more effectively by reading our tutorial on search engines at ‹http://netguide.aust.com›.*

# Attack viruses before they attack you



*Install Norman Virus Control today.*
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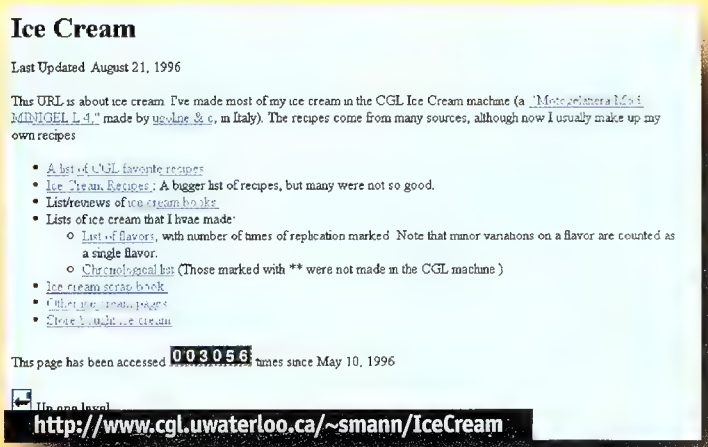
# Surviving a long, hot summer

[by Nicole Manktelow]

**With the cold frosty mornings now gone, it's time to banish those woolly layers and welcome summer. And with it comes the time to relax and have fun. Whether you plan to soak up the sunshine on a beach, or concentrate on eating, drinking and making merry, these sites will help you survive the long hot days ahead, while pursuing a maximum of indulgence.**

## 101 FLAVOURS




### ICE-CREAM

80 kph

Hot days are the perfect excuse for an ice-cream cone, sundae or Paddle-Pop. You just have to scoff it before it melts. For some folk, however, ice-cream clearly has a more meaningful role in their lives. For example, the ice-cream page at ‹http://www.cgl.uwaterloo.ca/~smann/IceCream› is a simple shrine to one person's hobby of making the stuff. The ice-cream page at ‹http://www.foodsci.uoguelph.ca/dairyedu/icecream.html› has an even more serious investigation of the topic, including the history and folklore surrounding the dairy product.

## MAGAZINE

### THE I MAGAZINE

FREEWAY 110 kph

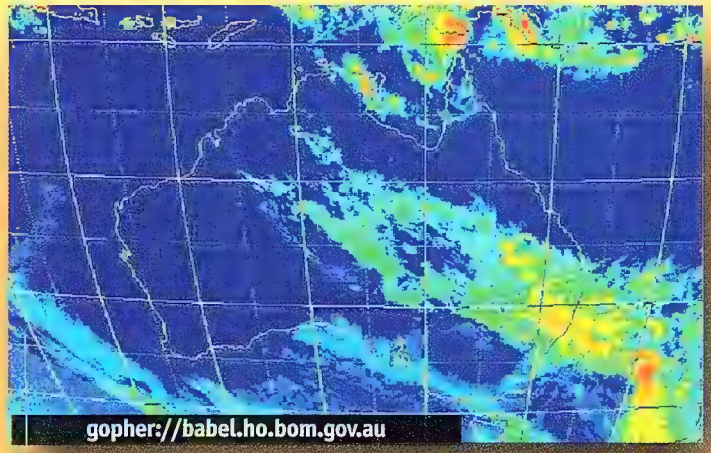
The only problem with e-zines is that you can't fold them up and take them with you to the beach. But set aside a few hours somewhere more convenient to check out the best music magazine around on the Web. The i Magazine has got more content than 'attitude' and changes constantly. It's cool, it's about cool music and filled with interviews. It's a totally indulgent feast for music buffs and fans (of new as well as established artists). The i also features art, film, books and other good cultural stuff, with whiz-bang graphics and sound bytes.

## WEATHER

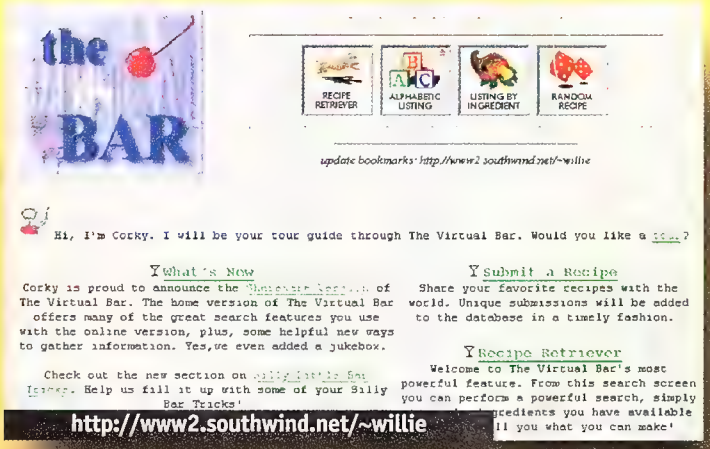
### AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY GOPHER

FREEWAY 110 kph

Top points for useful. Here's the gopher site from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology which gives you the weather updated hourly. The Gopher site (which can be accessed via a Web browser) contains Australian climate data, library information and other related bureau services. To find out if it will rain on the weekend, however, choose the Australian Weather Information link and choose between the states and regions, or satellite and weather charts.




## DRINKIES




### VIRTUAL BAR

60 kph

Summer and the holiday period, not to mention staff parties, can make the world just one big alcoholic haze. If you like cocktails, take a little time to read through the many recipes at the Virtual bar. There's a thousand or so recipes here, listed alphabetically and by ingredients, so if you know exactly what you want, or just know a basic ingredient, your search will still find that specific cocktail. The site also has information on glassware, bartending, all kinds of hints and tips, and even drinking games.

## ON TAP

### THE GREAT AUSSIE BEER PAGE

60 kph

Beer has a good claim to be the national beverage. In any case, it's certain the hotter it gets the better it tastes! At the Great Aussie Beer Page you'll see a simple site with an overview of the various styles and brands of beer in Australia. It's written from the personal viewpoint of a beer veteran who's checked out much of the material at the site, even going to the brew pubs to give them a personal evaluation.

## GET FIT

### FITNESSLINK

Too much flab to fit into your cozzies? Burn it off and get fit with the help of FitnessLink, a cross between a magazine and a database. This site has loads of content for fitness freaks and those with the unfit conscience. The regularly updated news-style section has fitness tips and small articles. There are other practical chunks on how and what sort of fitness program to start and the various levels of fitness. The site also discusses areas like aerobics and strength training, and nutrition.

## BURNT IS BEAUTIFUL

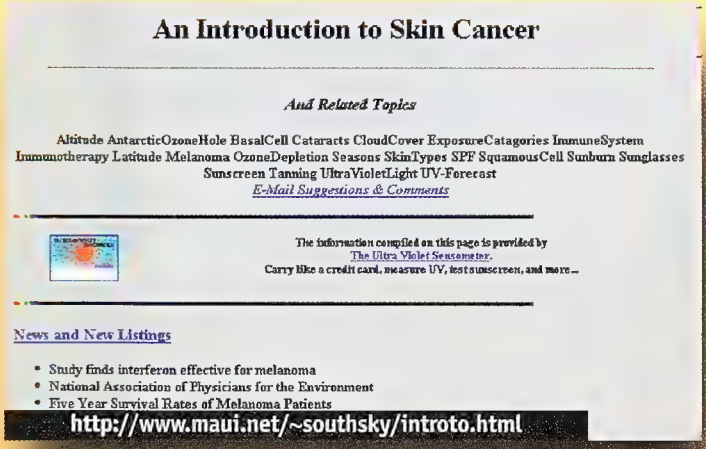
### BARBECUE'N ON THE INTERNET

The great suburban symbol of backyards and blokiness, the Australian barbie, complete with burnt snags and offensive aprons, has not yet been elevated to its rightful place on the Net. However, the American-flavoured barbecue sites can hold new ideas and recipes for the more adventurous folk wielding tongs. Barbecue'n on the Internet is a fun-looking site, with cooking temperatures, tips, tools, and recipes. There's also a search engine to help you find your way around.

## SUN SAFE

### AN INTRODUCTION TO SKIN CANCER

No matter how good it feels to sunbake, don't touch that beach towel until you've read up on the dangers of skin cancer. An Introduction to Skin Cancer is a US site full of information and advice. What exactly is skin cancer anyway? And what impact do heredity and the environment have? Users can use this site to work out their risk, find out what precautions they can take and get some insight into the whole UV ozone thing.



REPELLENT

### SUMMER INSECTS DRIVING YOU MAD?

80 kph

Sick of the mozzies, flies and other members of the bug population? This page at the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals site has some more environmentally friendly and less toxic (well, not for insects) solutions. Don't expect an entertaining site, this one's included just for its information value.

STRESS RELIEF

### THE RELAXATION STEREOGRAM

60 kph

Take a moment to unwind and relax. Here at the relaxation stereogram users can avail themselves of a free service – simply look at the image (you know, do the cross-eyed, blurry vision thing) until you can begin to see the hidden 3D image. If you can't get it you're probably not relaxed enough, so keep going! Got it? Good, consider yourself relaxed.

BUSH FIRE

### NSW FIRE BRIGADE

80 kph

The New South Wales Fire Brigade has a spanking new page, with general information about the service, media releases and most importantly a section on fire safety, containing two timely brochures: a bush fire survival guide, and one about fire safety in health care facilities. There's also practical advice on installing and maintaining fire alarms.

# Soap bubbles

Soap bubbles
Soap bubbles
Soap bubbles
Soap bubbles
Soap bubbles

[by Nicole Manktelow]

**Can't get enough of daytime soaps on TV? Soaps with plenty of suds are alive and well on the Internet, often drawing heavily on the work of Aaron Spelling, the King of Soap. Here you'll find the usual tales of love, lust, greed, conspiracy, intrigue and scandal.**

Soap bubbles

## MELROSE-ISH

### THE SPOT

60 kph

Who needs *Melrose*, *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* when you've got The Spot? This soapie is probably the best known on the Net. The characters (who all happen to live in a gorgeous seaside house in Santa Monica) have their own dramas and dilemmas, each pouring their hearts out online while remaining oblivious to what everyone else is going through. The site is glamorous and the content is no more outrageous than normal TV soap fodder. And there's scandal of course: just who is the father of Britt's baby?

## STATE OF UNION

### UNION2

FREEWAY 110 kph

This site is funky. It's a photograph-based episodic site with great design. Kitty has been caught out on Cyberday and is having a very strange time trying to find her friends and dealing with an assortment of fleeting weirdos. The structure of the site is refreshing and quick. Each scene has some description and pulldown boxes for the dialogue of the characters. Quirky notes and information throughout as well as user polls. Very cool.

## BOOZY

### CALIFORNIA BEER GUIDE

80 kph

Maybe a touch too obscure, but interesting nevertheless, is the California Beer Guide. The site says it's about a six-pack of young filmmakers in love and so on... Kind of a cross between *Party of Five* and *Pulp Fiction*. The episodes here don't seem to be in any order and seem to draw their inspiration from overworked themes in TV shows and movies. And then there's the beer. Everywhere the characters go there's beer, and if there isn't, beer still manages to come into the conversation.

## GENETIC CONSPIRACY

### ABOVE THE UNICORN

80 kph

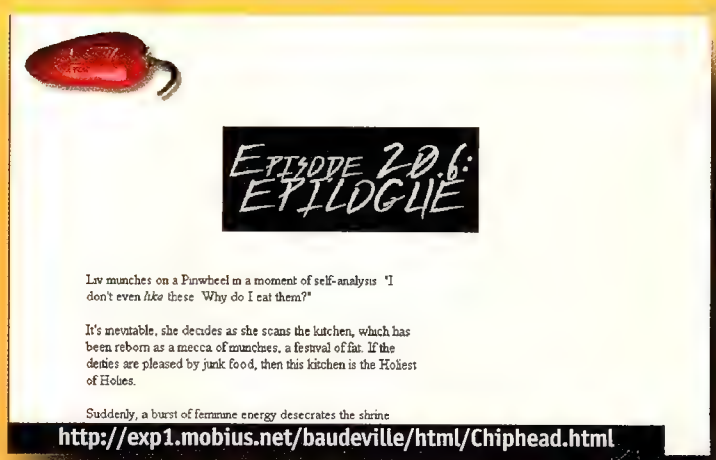
Every mad scientist's fantasy. The story line at Above the Unicorn involves conspiracy, danger and the creation of a genetically superior bunch of employees – ahhh, sweet corporate bliss. However, despite the many secret groups listed, there's not much to this site, apart from discussions such as what to do with the remaining imperfect millions.

## DETECTIVE

### CHIPHEAD HARRY

60 kph

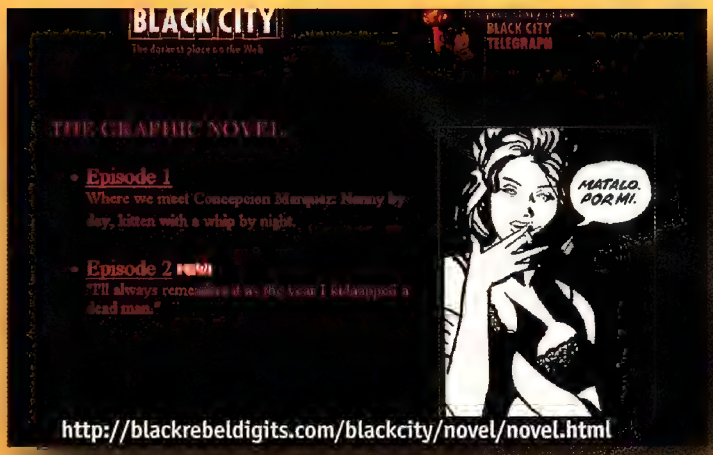
Chiphead Harry is dead. Everyone seems to be okay with this except for you and the expresso guy. This is essentially the plot of this soapie. The episodes are a little drawn out but it's more fun than *Columbo*, although it could use a bit of Peter Falk's personality.



## CORRUPTION

### BLACK CITY

The graphic novel, Black City, is a fairly compelling story about a nanny with a secret night life and a dead body. There's an equal mix of narration and dialogue here. Each paragraph of text relates a tale of events that works well to bring the reader into a story, which is vital for a medium where attention spans are short. Each page is accompanied by a lithographic pop art-style illustration which looks dramatic on the black background and white text.




## RADIO DAYS

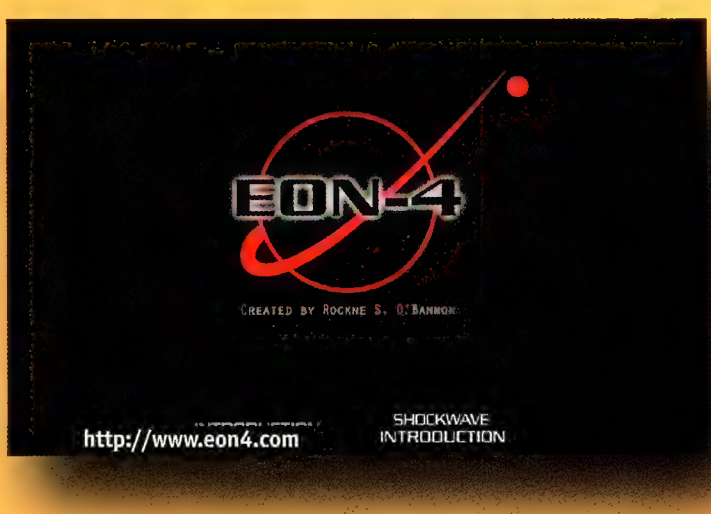
### TOAST OPERA

In the spirit of old style radio plays, you can't get much cheesier than the Toast Opera, a six-part serial. It's been on the Web for a while but if you haven't seen it yet, it's worth a look. Will Sally Creamcheese bring down the company? Will the novelty wear off before episode two? Top points for ingenuity – the credits scroll through just like a movie. It's low tech and a good effect.

## SCI-FI

### EON-4 PROJECT

This is a sci-fi soap that's big on design, Shockwave and snazzy effects. Some elements appear as though they have been ripped of from different sci-fi movies and themes. The content here is more contrived than compelling (okay we're not looking for realism, but they could have tried...) The main thread is broken into various transmissions. Great looking site, but do you feel like coming back?



## CORPORATE EVIL

### CRETINS, INC.

80 kph

There's something evil lurking in Bilge Corp. Could it be the company policy? This site is not strictly a soap, but it's still good value. As the new employee at Bilge Corp you begin to realise that it's not a happy workplace. Have a laugh at the messages on the notice board in the lounge area, and check out the company's PR and marketing branches.

## SPIES AND HAM

### CRACKS IN THE WEB

FREEWAY 110 kph

This site reads like how William Gibson might write on a really bad day. The design is good, and the text-based episodes are interesting, although very hammy. The plot is one of cyber-espionage, greed and power. The site concentrates on each character, and you can choose your favourite and follow them through the episode to a gut-wrenching cliff hanger that will keep you suspended till next time. The character Derek Taylor looks like a silicon version of Pierce Brosnan.

## BEACHSIDE

### FRIDAY'S BEACH

80 kph

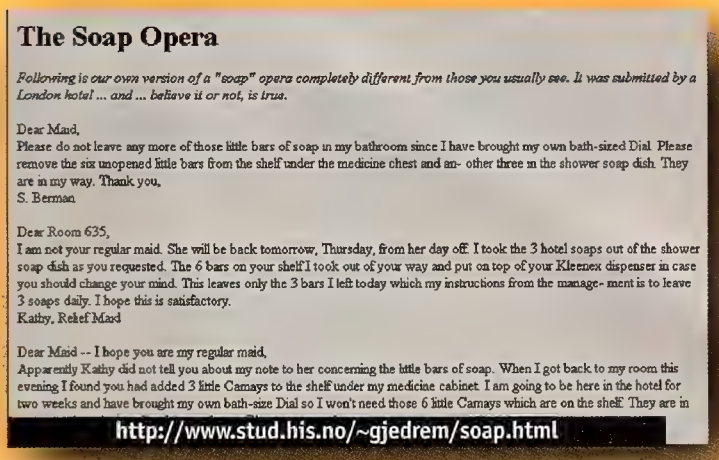
Friday's Beach is a soap set in a fictional Australian town. It's about a group of teenagers, all going through teenager-type problems. Besides the general angst of their years, heavier issues like drugs and suicide are also dealt with. The site uses video, audio, diary entries, IRC transcripts, and online chats. The site's design is crisp and it's a pleasant change to hear Australian accents and story lines that are a little closer to home.

*Disclaimer thingy: Friday's Beach is produced by the same fine folk who write and design this magazine (that's Tech Talk Australia).*

OLDIE

### THE SOAP OPERA

This one is really about soap – those little hotel soaps. The misunderstandings, trials and tribulations and heartbreak of soap. Is there too much or too little? This humorous piece is a fun read if you haven't come across it already (there are many places on the Web where this story can be found).




COMIC STRIP

### THE HOUSE@

Another soapy product from Australia, the House@ series is actually a slick comic strip. An interesting story line is accompanied by great graphics and there are enough episodes here (recently updated too) to keep readers enthused. A great effort from the Students at WA's Curtin University.

ELVIS IS ALIVE...

### THE LOST ELVIS DIARIES

The Lost Elvis Diaries sounds like a funky read, something a little offbeat and quirky. The truth is, after reading the first issue I couldn't go on. "It had all started that morning as I sat in my office in the Metro Room of The Memphis Globe. The nameplate on the desk read 'Jefferson Parrish, reporter.' Trixie, the office secretary, popped her gum as she tossed the thick stack of morning mail in my direction." All this and more on a blue suede background.

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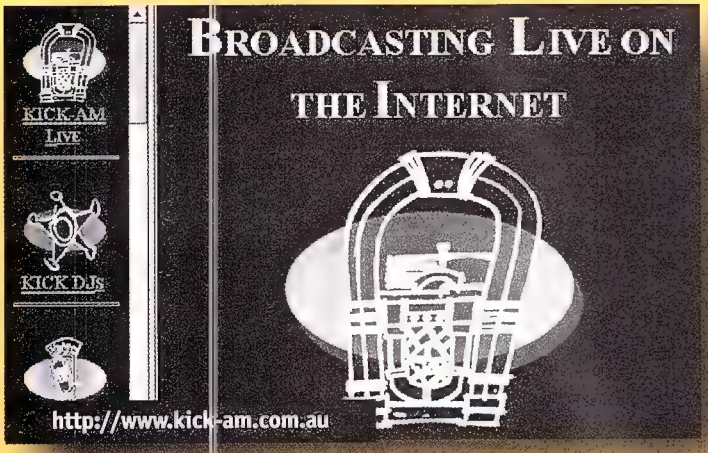
# Log *on*, tune in, & chill out

[by Linda Hopkins]

**If you're sick of your local radio stations and think Triple J has gone to the dogs, tune into Net radio. From jazz to bluegrass, underground club to alternative rock, these sites are a hybrid of multimedia content: part pop culture music magazine, part radio station. To hear the stations listed here you'll at least need RealAudio 2, but if your connection can stand the strain, go for the latest version 3 because believe me, the quality is so fantastic your ears will scream out for more.**

## COUNTRY WITH KICK




### KICKAM 1269

80 kph

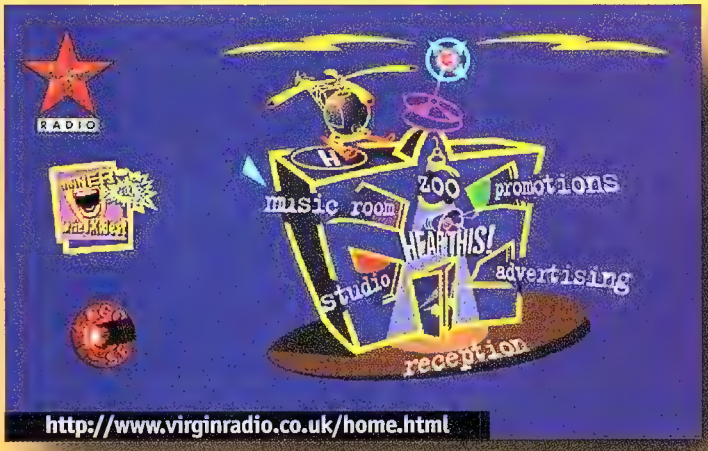
We kick off this radio guide with Australia's own KickAM. It's reputed to be Australia's only radio station to broadcast live on the Net. There's plenty of interest here for honky tonk cool country, rock and blues listeners. The sound quality is pretty decent, but we do have an ISDN link here at *ANG*. The site features upcoming attractions, who's in the charts, musicians and the venues they are playing. The Outback Toyota Club features interviews with country music legends like Johnny Cash.

## HOTTEST HITS

### VIRGIN RADIO

80 kph

I like this site. It's got snappy graphics, good music, and stuff you actually want to read – like how to get a job in radio. Heaps of stuff to win here, including cold, hard cash, albums, movie passes, and the chance to see your favourite musician. This site has a Richard Branson (the Virgin Atlantic guy) feel to it, with all the balloons and hot air. The sound is fair, but like any of these sites, it depends very much on the time of day you tune in and the speed of your connection.

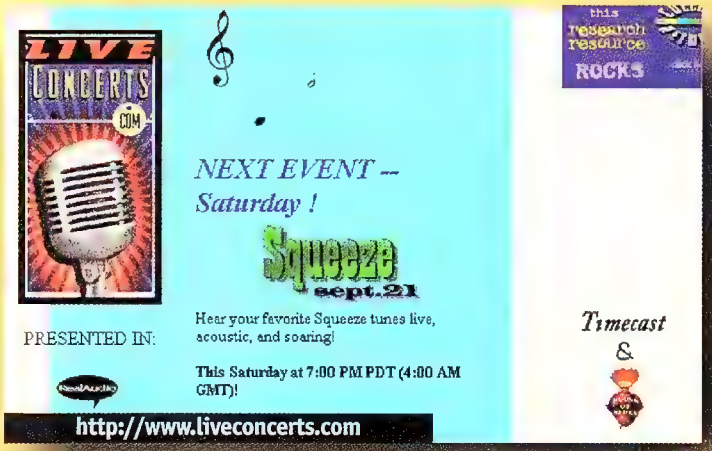


## LIVE BROADCAST

### LIVE CONCERTS

80 kph

This Web site netcasts acoustic live performances from the House of Blues on Sunset Strip in LA. Tune in for live chats with various artists, read the transcripts of past chats, musicians' biographies, and listen to samples of their music. There's a strong jazz and blues influence here with the likes of sax player Joshua Redman featured. Previews, exclusive interviews and performances are available anytime for surfers. If you become a member, you'll get a reminder before live shows.




## MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

### AUDIONET

80 kph

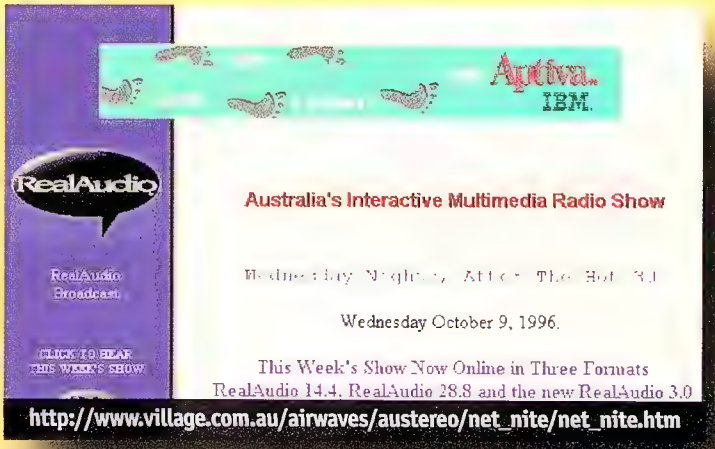
Now this is a really great audio site. Where do I begin? AudioNet is an Internet broadcast network presenting live stereo programming from over 80 stations. The amount of choice here is almost overwhelming. Listen to alternative rock from Dallas, jazz from New Orleans, talkback radio from Baltimore, or sports from Memphis, Tennessee. Besides a CD Jukebox with a choice of over 600 CDs to play, there's a list of upcoming live broadcasts. I had trouble dragging myself away to finish researching the rest of this guide.

## AUSSIE NETWORK

### TODAY'S AUSTEREO NETWORK

80 kph

Although this site is the companion of the Austereo's net@nite interactive multimedia radio show, it's included here because it's Australian and the sound is so good. And it's a program *ANG* readers will probably enjoy. With a mix of music, guests like Andrew Daddo, and computer advice, the show is broadcast live every Wednesday night. Past shows are also available. Although the show tries very hard to be 'hip', it does give pretty sound advice. If you've got the latest versions of Navigator or IE, check out the Java Chat area.



ROCK

## ON-AIR

On-Air is an Internet-only radio station broadcast from San Diego, California, netcasting around the clock and around the world. It brings you all your favorite ROQ of the '80s, plus all new ROQ of the '90s. Besides the live broadcasts, there's an archive where webcasts are posted after the event. If you like Pearl Jam or missed the Oasis concert at Loch Lomond, check out this site. There's also a chat room and a CU-SeeMe reflector open to anyone who wants to participate.

CLASSICAL

## CLASSIC KING-FM

Classic KING-FM is apparently the first radio station in the world to broadcast classical music live on the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It appears this Seattle station can only be accessed via Timecast.com or the RealAudio site. This may seem a bit complicated, but the sound quality is so wonderful I couldn't resist including it here. I realise I have an ISDN connection, RealAudio 3 and it was 8pm at night, but if this is the future of the Web, I can hardly wait to hear it.

MUSIC FOR YOUR EYES

## IMUSIC RADIO 1

Still immensely impressed with the stereo qualities of the latest version of RealAudio. The volume and breadth of music and pop culture stuff here is pretty huge. Check out the radio stations, a searchable concert database and live broadcasts from MOE, one of Seattle's hottest alternative music clubs. Radio stations iMusic Radio 1 and Club iMusic have a unique spin in that you can vote on particular songs to directly affect the rotation playlist. Power to the people. Hope you get a fast Net connection real soon, everyone should have at least one ISDN line.

## RANDOM ACCESS

### RADIO ATN

Radio ATN is a division of Addicted to Noise, a kind of multimedia music and pop culture magazine, with interviews with the likes of cyberpunk author William Gibson, as well as music news and feature stories, a chat room, album reviews and columns. The radio content is random-access rock 'n' roll programmed exclusively for the Net. There's a great series called In the Lab, consisting of your usual radio-style interviews with bands like REM, Smashing Pumpkins, Spacehog, Neil Young, and others. Stuff here is also available in Shockwave Streaming Audio.

## TRUE GRIT

### GRIT

To listen to the talk shows, audio reviews, live guests and callers here, you'll need either RealAudio 3.0 or Streamworks from Xing Technologies. Segments like The Warren Show, Side Bar, Mind-Body-Computing, the Sports Page, and Hitman are webcast at special times throughout the week, although they are repeated at other times. Interesting listening here, but I think bandwidth really needs to improve before talkback Net radio takes off. Quite a strong law influence here, which isn't surprising considering the legal background of the DJs.

## CHANNEL RADIO

### 1WEBRADIO

At the moment there are five channels of radio stations from places like Miami in Florida, but more are on the way. WebRock is one of the stations and focuses on the local band scene. The programs air at certain times of the week, but you can catch up on past broadcasts by selecting the appropriate number. This site makes you realise how much potential there is on Web radio for newcomer bands trying to get their music heard. This site is probably best heard from the States because the sound was really breaking up.

## YOU'RE THERE!

### RADIO THERE

80 kph

Radio There caters to people who dig world music, British pop and blues and jazz. The programs are broadcast live on the Net at specific times, and archived past programs are, of course, available. Radio There is part of the There site, which also includes a magazine and a store. You can order your CD online. The whole site is hyperlinked between the sections so when you're reading the CD reviews and like what you read and hear, you can make an order. Eclectic and comprehensive content here.

## THE BEE BEE CEE

### BBC RADIO

80 kph

Choose between the many different stations maintained by the Beebs. I spent most of my time at Radio 1. The design of this site draws heavily on the physical location metaphor, so you'll land at the station's reception desk first. Security guard Gerard will be only too pleased to show you around, alright? Lots of information here, although it's a bit difficult to find programming you can actually listen to. Transcriptions are available. Great sound when you can get it.

## PUBLIC RADIO

### NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

60 kph

The listener has lots of choice here with news on the hour, a news story of the day, and lots of archived programming including news, cultural and special feature programming. Transcripts are also available. Based in Washington DC, NPR is a public network whose member stations can be found all across America, some of which maintain their own Web pages. This is a fair example of a hypermedia 'radio' station with lots of magazine-type content. Radio with sound, text and images. Oh, what an interesting place the Web is.

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| 8x Panasonic or Mitsumi | $149 |
| 8x Creative | $159 |
| 10x Octek | $199 |

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|---|---|
| ESS 1868 | $59 |
| Creative Vibra 16 | $109 |
| Creative SB16 PnP | $119 |
| Creative SB32 PnP | $199 |
| Creative AWE 32 PnP | $399 |

**CD ROM Kits**

| | |
|---|---|
| KTX 8x 16 Bit Sound Card, Speakers, 5 MS CD Titles | $299 |
| Creative 8x CD ROM SB16 8 CD Titles | $369 |
| Creative 8x CD ROM, SB32 17 CD Titles | $449 |
| 120 Watt Speakers | $99 |

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| Digital Pentium 120 11.3" TFT 16Mb EDO RAM 1.08 GB HDD Touchpad | $4995 |
| Used 486 Notebooks from | $800 |
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| KTX 14" 0.31 | $299 |
| Goldstar 14" 0.28 | $349 |
| Logix 14" 0.28 | $319 |
| Samtron 14" Digital 0.28 | $369 |
| KTX 15" 0.28 | $429 |
| Goldstar 15" Digital 0.28 | $519 |
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| Samtron 15" 0.28 | $599 |
| Sony 15" 0.28 | $749 |
| Goldstar 15" Analog 0.28 | $469 |
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| Goldstar 17" 0.28 | $950 |
| KTX 17" 0.28 | $799 |
| Sony 17" 0.28 | $1599 |

**Motherboards**

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|---|---|
| 486/586 | $119 |
| Triton 11 430 HX Chipset 256Kb | $199 |
| Triton VX Chipset 256Kb | $159 |
| Super Micro (Pro 200) | $599 |

**CPUs**

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|---|---|
| Pentium 100 | $189 |
| Pentium 120 | $249 |
| Pentium 133 | $349 |
| Pentium 150 | $469 |
| Pentium 166 | $649 |
| Pentium Pro 200 | $999 |
| AMD 586 133 | $69 |
| AMD K5 PR100 | $129 |
| 686 P120+ | $149 |
| 686 P150+ | $219 |
| 686 P166+ | $299 |

**Printers**

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|---|---|
| Canon 210c Colour | $319 |
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| Canon 6100 Colour | $799 |
| Epson Stylus IIs | $319 |
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| Epson Stylus Pro | $859 |
| HP400 Colour | $299 |
| HP600 | $369 |
| HP690c | $549 |
| HP850c | $849 |
| HP820cxi | $749 |
| HP 5L | $819 |

**Modems**

| | |
|---|---|
| KTX 33.6 Ext | $179 |
| KTX 33.6 Int | $169 |
| Dynalink Ext 33.6 | $199 |
| Dynalink 33.6 Int | $179 |
| Roadster 33.6 Ext | $299 |
| Netcomm 33.6 Int | $199 |
| Motorola 28.8 Ext | $289 |
| 16550 Uart I/O | $39 |

**Miscellaneous**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jaz drive SCSI Internal with 1Gb Disk | $699 |
| Zip Drive External Parallel or SCSI | $349 |
| Flatbed Scanner 4800 DPI | $449 |
| Hand Held Scanner 1600 DPI | $199 |
| Watch TV Tuner card. Win95 Plug and Play | $249 |
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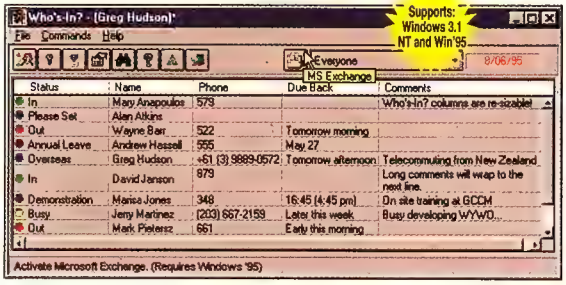


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# Wide Web of Sports

[by David Mitchell]

**That all-Australian pastime of watching grown men run around in the midday sun after a little leather ball is here again. In the spirit of summer here at the *Australian Net Guide*, we have dusted off our pads, oiled the willow and found some great sites that celebrate the wonderful world of cricket.**

## COMPREHENSIVE

### THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET PAGE

Covering Australian and New Zealand cricket, this site offers visitors the latest schedules, scorecards and match reports. For the newcomer there is a comprehensive guide to cricket which includes a full list of the rules, positions, fielding positions. In fact, everything you'll ever need to know about the game. And for those whose TV is booked by the kids, dial in for a ball-by-ball commentary via short wave radio. Well worth a bookmark, this is a great site for opening batsmen or tailenders.

*A sweeping drive through point for four runs*

## ENTHUSIAST

### RICK EYRE'S CRICKET PAGE

Rick's Rugby League site has been covered in a previous issue, and his cricket site matches the enthusiasm he has for the winter sport. Although the material here is mainly based on his own opinions, Rick's site is packed with some interesting news, information and great pictures. He has assembled one of the best and most organised list of links to other cricketing sites around the world.

*A deft pull shot through square leg for four runs*

HISTORY

## THE SRI LANKAN CRICKET PAGE

Voted as a top 5 per cent site by Points, a site rating body, the Sri Lankan Cricket Site provides you with a great mix of international and local news, as well as the history of Sri Lankan Cricket. This history may only be short in terms of time, but it's big in terms of achievement. Worth a bookmark, especially when you consider the dominance of the Sri Lankan team in the one day arena.

*A mighty cover drive for four runs*

HISTORY

## THE ZIMBABWEAN CRICKET PAGE

This site has current information about Zimbabwean Cricket and some historical data covering the local cricket scene. Although a little light on information, it does have a great selection of pictures and promises to be a good site as the summer season progresses.

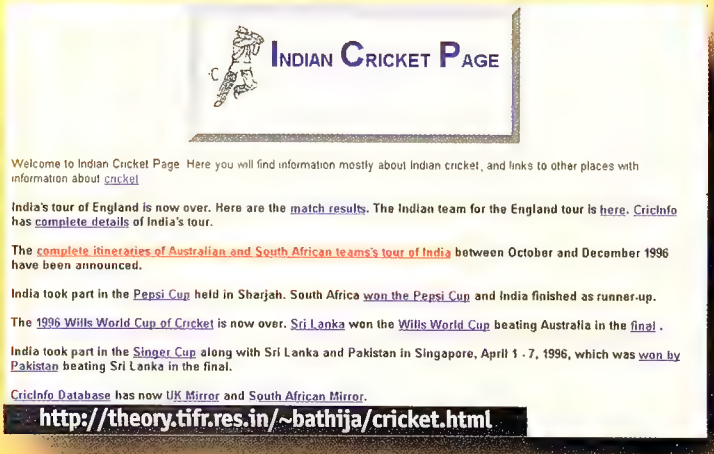
*A single down to third man*

LINKS

## THE INDIAN CRICKET PAGE

Here you will find information mostly about Indian cricket. The information here is hyperlinked to other cricket sites around the world.

*An edge to short fine leg for no runs*



NATIONS

## CRICINFO, CRICKET ON THE INTERNET

This site is packed full with information and news from all the cricket-playing nations around the world, and is a one-stop-shop for cricket enthusiasts. As well as a great range and depth of information, CricInfo has a nifty online magazine with news, reviews, interviews, a trading post area, and a competitions and prizes section. For cricket followers outside Australia, there are mirror sites in the UK, USA and South Africa.

*A mighty six over the side screen*

STATS

## THE COOPERS & LYBRAND RATINGS OF TEST CRICKETERS

A statistical site of the C&L Test ratings which have been a talking point among cricketing fans, players and pundits alike since 1987 when the ratings first appeared. Today, the ratings are acknowledged around the world as the accepted reference for accurate, reliable and thought-provoking statistical analysis. A definite bookmark site for those who like to sprout off statistics over the dinner table or down the local.

*An off drive through mid-off for two runs*

SHOTS

## THE ULTIMATE CRICKET SITE

This site is dedicated to providing a vast array of JPEG and GIF pictures of cricketing play. Although this site has no information value, it's worth a look as some of the action shots are first rate.

*A cheeky reverse sweep down to fine leg for one run*

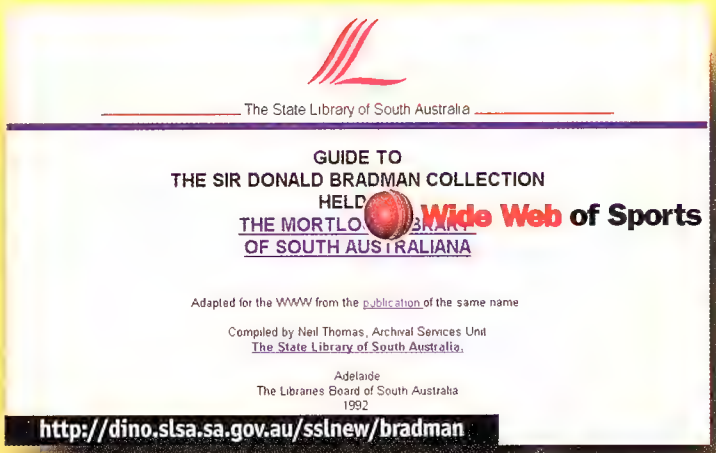
ACADEMY

## CRICKET AT THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The dominance of Australian Cricket in the world arena can be directly attributed to the 'The Australian Institute of Sport Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy', a joint initiative of the AIS and the Australian Cricket Board. This site gives you a unique insight into the Academy and its philosophy.

*A text book drive through extra cover for two runs*

MEMORABILIA




## THE SIR DONALD BRADMAN COLLECTION

No self-respecting cricket lover can ever go past the greatness of The Don. This 'Guide to the Sir Donald Bradman Collection held in the Mortlock Library of South Australia' has dapted for the WWW from the publication of the same name. Here, you can check out the full listing of memorabilia and read through the highlights of his cricketing career. Although last updated in December 1995, any material about Sir Donald Bradman is a big part of Australian cricketing culture and makes for a great read.

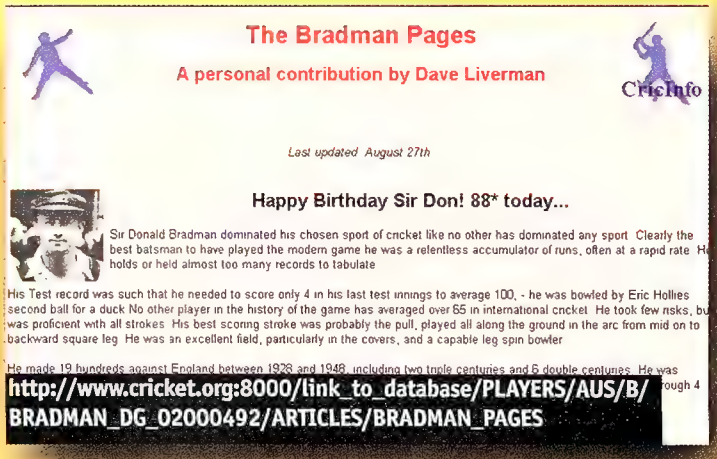
*A text book drive through extra cover for two runs*

PERSONAL

## THE BRADMAN PAGES

Nestled among the pages of the CricInfo database is Dave Liverman's personal contribution to The Don. Here you can find all the statistics, images and important dates of this great cricketing legend. You'll find a Bradman bibliography, some audio and much more. Despite the impossibly long URL, this site is worth the effort to get there.

*A neat cut through gully for four runs*



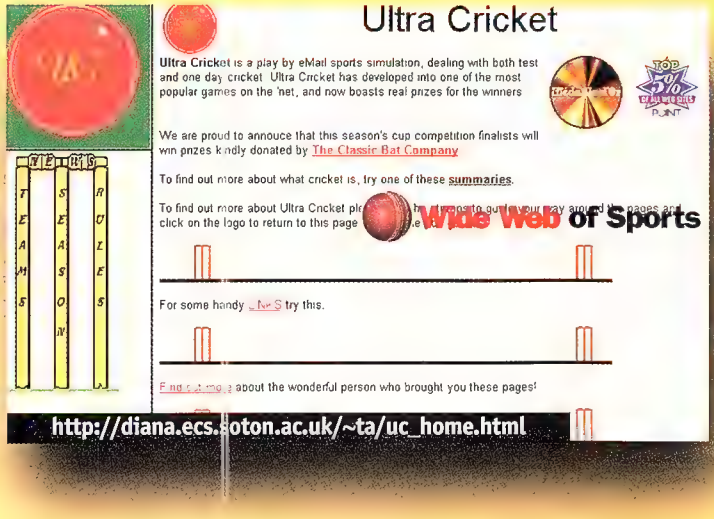
## CRICKET GEAR

### THE GREG CHAPPELL CRICKET CENTRE

The Greg Chappel cricket centre is a veritable supermarket of cricket paraphernalia. Ranging from bats, balls, and helmets to personal padding, this one-stop-shop is the place to go cyber shopping for cricket gear. I was impressed with not only the range of products on sale here but also the individual range of manufacturers represented within each product group. If you're looking to update your gear from last season, then check out this site.

*A mighty six hit back over the bowler's head*

## INTERACTIVE




### ULTRA CRICKET

A play by eMail sports simulation, dealing with both test and one day cricket. This rather complex e-mail game allows you to pit your cricketing skills against other like-minded people and gives the competitors the opportunity to win prizes. A rather complex game playing mechanism, but makes for endless hours of fun.

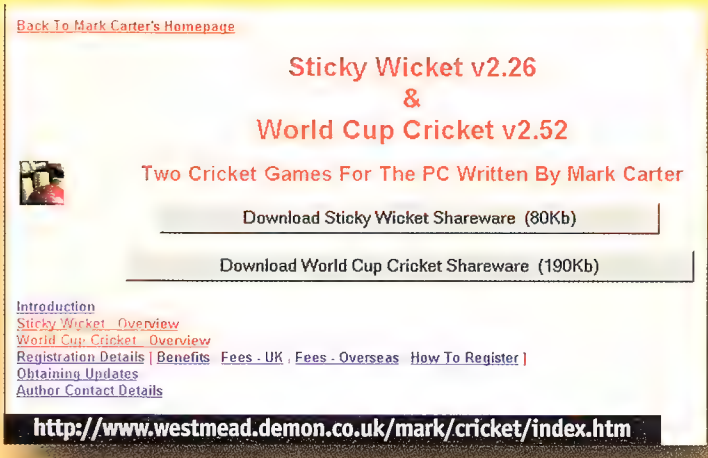
*A subtle edge down to third man for one run*

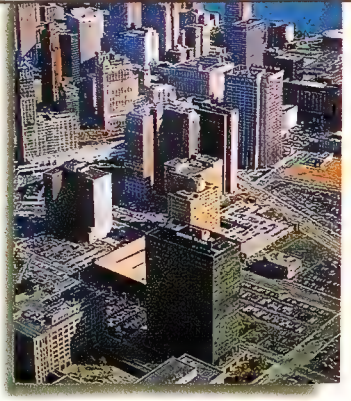
## SHAREWARE

### WORLD CUP CRICKET

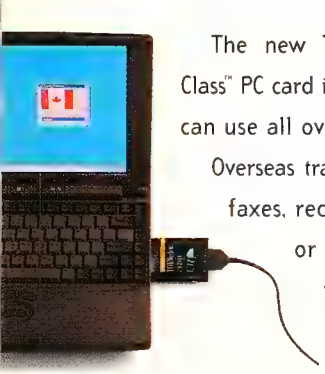
World Cup Cricket is a DOS based shareware game that puts you in the unenviable position of the latest Captain of the English Cricket Squad. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to take your team through the World Cup Finals and end up the winning team. A rather basic interface but a challenging game considering the teams you're up against.

*A dropped edge down through fine leg for one run*





# Now you can communicate from over 20 countries with just one card.



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For those who are more technical, the DF2814 supports V34 28,000 bit/sec data and 14,000 bit/sec send and receive fax data. For more details and technical information, please call TDK on 1800 651 917.

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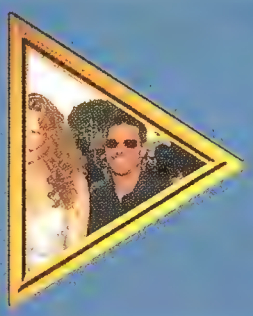


# Hunks, spunks and babes

**We're not even going to try to be politically correct in this guide to hunks, spunks, babes, bimbos and himbos. The Net is loaded with fan sites dedicated to famous movie stars and models. For those of you guilty of keeping a scrap book on your favourite celebrity wedding or movie star, go ahead and bookmark these files. Go on, join the online fan club, sign the guest book, and save the pics for wallpaper to drool over later.** [by the office crew]

## TOM BABY

### THE TOM CRUISE HOME PAGE

80 kph

After years of dismissing Tom as a bimbo, I have come to appreciate that he can actually act. The performance that changed my mind was *Born on the Fourth of July*, and although *Mission Impossible* lacked soul, those biceps are to die for. Created by BJ Williams, a big Tom Cruise fan, this site includes a filmography, articles, reviews and *loads* of great pics. Some of the links here don't work, but there is still plenty to see if you're just cruising.

## ARNIE

### THE ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER TRIBUTE PAGE

80 kph

If you love big muscles and Austrian accents you'll love the Arnold Schwarzenegger Tribute Page. Read Arnie's biographical notes and count the death toll accrued in his movies. The picture gallery has some good-quality pics of Arnie as movie hero, villain and Planet Hollywood owner. The entertaining reviews here are not clouded by blind adoration either, and are quick to point out the implausible impossibilities in movies like *Eraser*. This site is as polished as any of his movies.

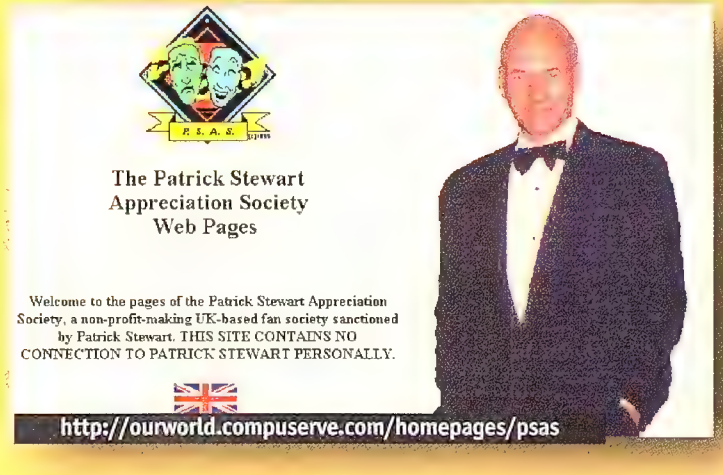
# Hunks, spunks and babes

## MAKE IT SO

### THE PATRICK STEWART APPRECIATION SOCIETY

80 kph

Better known to Trekkies as Jean-Luc Picard, Patrick Stewart has a loyal following on the Net, and looks great in a tux. Some of the information here is available in different languages including French, German and Italian. There is a picture gallery of photos taken by fans, as well as snippings from *Variety* about his latest exploits. This site lists his television and theatre credits which include playing the commander of the SS Enterprise in *Star Trek*, and various Shakespearean characters.




## CINDY & WILLY

### FAIR GAME

80 kph

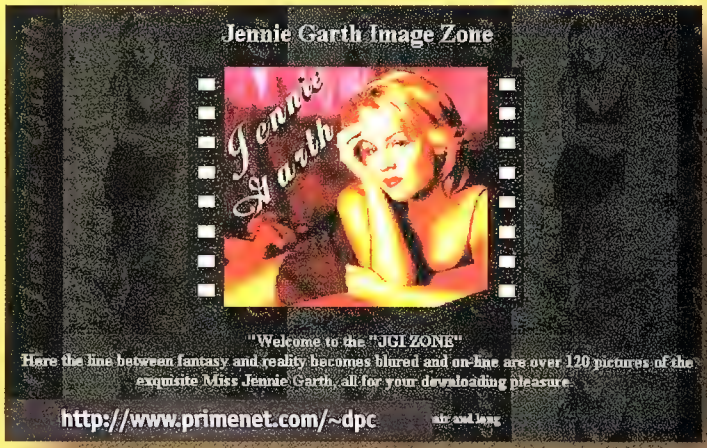
The Fair Game page at the Warner Bros site is great if you like the two-for-the-price-of-one bimbo-himbo combination of Cindy Crawford and William Baldwin. You get a picture of them together as well as some shots from the movie and other propaganda. At any rate, the Warner Bros site is reportedly 'awesome' and well worth a look. If you just want to see more of Cindy there are hundreds of sites. Just check out Yahoo: ‹http://www.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Multimedia/Pictures/People/Supermodels/Individual_Supermodels/Crawford__Cindy›.

## 90210

### THE JENNIE GARTH IMAGE ZONE

80 kph

The Jennie Garth Image Zone is a great place to find pics of the *Beverly Hills 90210* star. There are around 120 pictures here, categorised as sexy/cute, general, and 90210. There are also contact details for a fan club that will send you an autographed postcard of the actress. Fans will delight in participating in viewer polls. The latest one being: which way did you like Jennie's hair? Long, short, or 'either way, she's hot'? Tune in to find out.



# Hunks, spunks and babes

## DEMI, SANDRA, ETC.

### THE AUTHORITATIVE...

80 kph

Although the entry page is pretty uninspiring, by clicking on the menu in the bottom frame you can access each of the pages dedicated to Demi Moore, Teri Hatcher, Sandra Bullock, Courtney Cox, and Jennifer Anniston (Jennifer who??). Slick graphics and lots of them, the pages are well laid out so you can scroll through the images and view them in the large frame. If you don't mind a bit of advertising and you're an admirer of any of the above stars, this site is a must-see.

## KYLIE

### KYLIE'S PENTHOUSE

80 kph

Here's someone who just loves Kylie. The site has great design and a very persistent purplish colour scheme. Check out pictures of Kylie, including some from her calendar, as well as her biography (interpreted by a fan who obviously likes the *Wizard of Oz* theme). There's also the definitive Kylie discography and a couple of sound and video files to download. An online form is available for you to post a message to Kyles.

## HEATHER

### HEATHERWEB

80 kph

HeatherWeb is the Heather Locklear Internet Fan Club site, supposedly the most visited site on the Web (yeah right.) If you can survive the pastels, you can read up on Heather's biography, or you could go straight for the picture gallery which includes photos of her growing up, as well as stacks of more recent shots and magazine covers. There's a free photo giveaway and a few *Dynasty* Vs *Melrose* jokes to boot.

# Hunks, spunks and babes

## AUSSIE STAR

### GUY PEARCE IMAGE GALLERY

60 kph

A US fan has set up this page of pictures. It's still looking pretty new, but has a promising future. Snaps include those from movies *Dating the Enemy*, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, and the TV series *The Man from Snowy River*.

## MICHELLE

### THE MICHELLE PAGE

80 kph

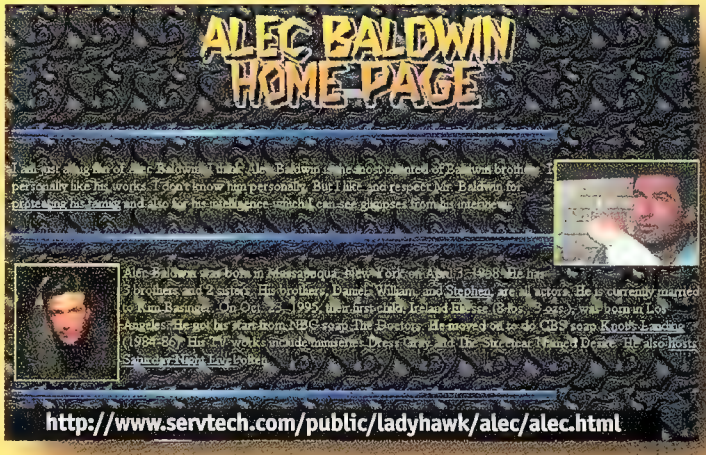
At first glance this Michelle Pfeiffer page doesn't seem to hold much in the way of content. Still, while there's not much in the way of biographical, or film notes, there are around 200 pictures here. Images are split up into different pages, so make sure you check them all out.

## ALEC

### THE UNOFFICIAL ALEC BALDWIN HP

80 kph

This is a pretty cool site, with good graphics and a range of content, with links to articles, including ones about Alec thumping low-life paparazzi. The creator of this site steadfastly believes Alec is the smartest of the Baldwin boys. Besides an impressive picture gallery, there are filmography, trivia, interview and film clip sections. Did you know that all the Baldwin brothers, except for Alec, were born on the fourth of July? Neither did we.



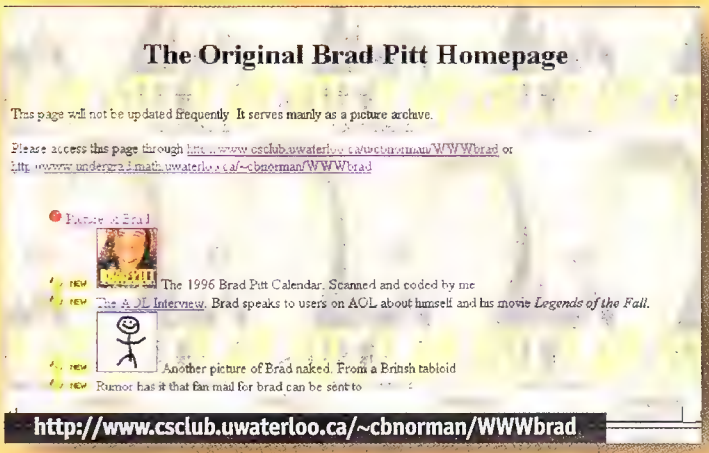
# Hunks, spunks and babes

## WE WANT BRAD

### THE ORIGINAL BRAD PITT HP

60 kph

This site has a gallery of some 50 pictures of Brad, including some from the Brad Pitt calendar. It also includes an interview, the address of Brad's agent, and a form to send him e-mail (which we're sure he'll read!). The wallpaper is a bit on the tacky side, but true Brad Pitt fans won't mind.




## HARRY

### THE UNOFFICIAL HARRISON FORD STUFF HOME PAGE

80 kph

This page has stacks of links to various Harry Ford resources on the Net. Besides a biography, there are fan clubs, a newsgroup, trivia, and of course all the pages relating to the many movies he's starred in. In fact, Harry has appeared in seven of the movie industry's top 25 highest grossing films. There are great graphics here, from *Star Wars'* Hans Solo to Jack Ryan from the Tom Clancy epics, and of course Indiana Jones. Sound and video files are available, including one from *Blade Runner*.

## CLUELESS

### THE A GRADE ALICIA SILVERSTONE PAGE

80 kph

Voted MTV's most desirable female, Alicia Silverstone has clout on the Net with a stack of pages devoted to her. This one is our pick however. It's got the best design, a great range of pictures and the site creator's own blow-by-blow description of Alicia's career path from the Aerosmith girl to *Clueless*. There's also advice here about which movies are worth seeing.

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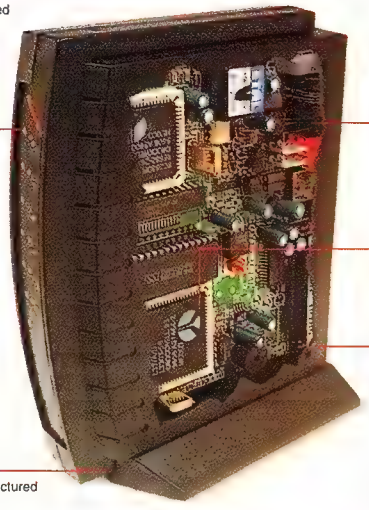

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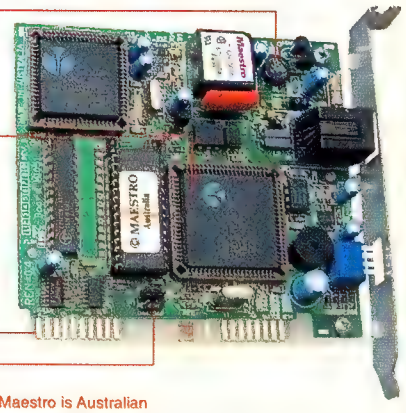


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# New Australian sites

**Here is the latest listing of new sites which have been registered with the Australian Internet Directory. The listings can be accessed online at ‹http://www.widewest.com.au/directry›. The directory can also be found in the national best seller, *The Australian Internet Book*.**

### 1997 CANBERRA RESTAURANT BOOK
A full listing of all the restaurants in Canberra. Details include type of cuisine, facilities, opening times, cost and a description.
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/virtualprog

### 91.5 MELBOURNE'S KIX-FM
A youth radio station broadcasting from Melbourne, playing mainly dance music. The station broadcasts live on the Internet.
http://www.kixfm.org.au

### A CLAYTON'S SECRETARY
Secretarial support for small and home-based businesses. The secretary for those who don't have a secretary.
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~kmthom

### A.A.A. TOURS
A South Australian travel agency finding its feet on the Web. Good information on four or five tours.
http://www.senet.com.au/~aaatours/aaaindex.htm

### AAA WORLD ANNOUNCE ARCHIVE
AAA is the home of the Matilda Australian Search Engine. Here you can submit a site, protect your children from offensive material on the Net and search for new national and international sites. New sites are updated every hour.
http://www.aaa.com.au

### ACTTAB – AUSTRALIAN TOTALISATOR BETTING SERVICE
Comprehensive betting and related information services. All major thoroughbred horse, harness and greyhound racing in Australia is covered here.
http://www.acttab.cns.com.au

### AD.MEDIA
An online advertising network providing centralised advertising management, controlled content and links, and post-buy performance analysis for Web ad campaigns.
http://www.admedia.aust.com

### ADAM
A large Australian BBS offering full Internet services. The site contains a large selection of links.
http://www.adam.com.au

### ADCORP
Job opportunities page across the Internet in Australia. Daily updates, with job ads held for a fortnight.
http://www.com.au:80/adcorp

### ADELAIDE MICROGRAPHICS SERVICES
Imaging bureau site providing micrographics, digital and reprographics services in South Australia.
http://people.enternet.com.au/~western

### AERIAL PURSUITS: LIGHT SPORTS AVIATION
Australian Light Sports Aviation Resource Guide, also Aerial Pursuits communications products.
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~aerial

### AIESEC AUSTRALIA
AIESEC is an international student organisation that promotes global understanding through business opportunities, education and an exchange program.
http://www.qut.edu.au/guild/aiesec/au.html

### THE 'MACGUFFIN' WEB PAGE
A site for film and arts scholars interested in the work of Alfred Hitchcock. Includes news of parent publication, The MacGuffin.
http://www.labyrinth.net.au/~muffin

### ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA, MOVIES & MORE!
Local news, Centralian Events schedule plus photos, movie reviews and links.
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~penton

### AMCAL NATURAL HEALTH GUIDE
This site contains information about vitamins, minerals and plants. You also get tips on healthy eating (nutrition), food sources and recommended daily intake charts.
http://www.parkhouse.com.au/amcal

### ART HISTORY VIRTUAL MUSEUM
The AHVM has been developed by the Art History Group at Charles Sturt University to provide images, data and helpful links for those interested in art history.
http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/arthist/front.htm

### ASIAN BUSINESS CONSULTANTS
If you're doing business with Asian clients, this page may be helpful. The company offers courses on Asian customs and beliefs we don't normally associate with business. ›

› They offer Feng Shui audits, Chinese horoscopes and Ba Gua configurations. The Feng Shui audit is online.
http://www.internet-quest.com.au/accessabroad/welcome.htm

### AUSTRALIA'S BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL TRAIL
This trail is the largest of its kind in the world and it's here in Australia. It traverses lush tropical rainforests, rugged mountains, valleys and gorges, remote dry plains, alpine meadows, snow fields and wilderness. The site contains all the information you'll need for the trek.
http://www.vicnet.net.au/~bnt

### AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS PUBLISHERS
Association of Australian specialist and business publishers.
http://www.abp.com.au/nis

### AUSTRALIAN JEWELLERY AND WATCH COMPANY
Jewellery and watches made and/or designed in Australia, including opal rings, pendants, cufflinks, tie bars and watches. Also available are unique coinwatches with Australian, British, American or New Zealand coin dials.
http://www.ssn.net.au/jewellery

### AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL LINKS
Anyone interested in multiculturalism in Australia will find this site both educational and entertaining. You'll find links to cultural events, education, facts and figures and a great deal more.
http://www.albury.net.au/~curtinig/ozlinks.htm

### AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION HOME PAGE
The Web home for the national sporting body controlling skydiving and parachuting in Australia. The site offers a lot of information concerning regulation of parachuting and skydiving in Australia as well as offering information for overseas enthusiasts.
http://www.apf.asn.au/~apf

### AUSTRALIAN RAVES
A virtual community of Australian ravers, including a directory of online resources, media articles about raves and a group of mailing lists.
http://www.magna.com.au/~simonr/ausrave

### AUSTRALIAN WINES
One of the best of Australian wine sites, with information on wine regions, news and show results. You can select and purchase wine online.
http://www.wine.com.au

### BABYLON 5 OZ FAN CLUB
Home page for the Babylon 5 fan club. The site is up but not much is happening because the club is currently undergoing changes. Details can be found at this site regarding the club's future.
http://www.bab5oz.hl.com.au

### BANKSTOWN STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY
Train and railway enthusiasts welcome here. Model engineering and links to other railway sites.
http://www.accsoft.com.au/~nowcompu/trains.htm

### BLACKIE MCDONALD COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
Blackie McDonald is the fifth largest public relations company in Sydney.
http://www.bmcd.com.au

### BRISBANE INSTITUTE OF TAFE
This site lists information regarding courses on offer, links to other educational and helpful pages, as well as providing information on Internet training courses being offered by the Institute.
http://www.uq.edu.au/bit

### BRITISH ANCESTORS IN INDIA
Cathy Day's British ancestors in India is somewhat of a work in progress, although it is shaping up to be a genealogy hot spot for Australians with British-Indian ancestry. It features information and tips for genealogists researching British ancestors in India as well as the results of Cathy's own genealogical research.
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~clday

### CONCEPT KOLORCARDS
This company specialises in full colour business cards, marketing cards, brochures, flyers and other promotional materials.
http://www.ozemail.com.au/~kolcards

### CONTEX SYSTEMS
Provider of pre-press and publishing systems design, installation, training and support.
http://www.contex.com.au

### CRYPTOSAUR
Cryptography software. Download a free version of XBOCT from this site.
http://ozemail.com.au/~andreis

### CURRICULUM CORPORATION
Free lesson plans, professional development material and loads of teaching resources are offered at this site by an independent education support organisation owned by all Australian states and territories, and Commonwealth Ministers of Education.
http://www.curriculum.edu.au

### CYBERTUTOR
Cybertutor is an online commercial tutoring service geared towards secondary students. You can email them a 1000 word English essay and for thirty dollars they will help with improvements. I've not used the service, but the price seems fair enough.
http://www.loom.net.au/home/cybtutor

### DIGITAL IMAGING
A company located in Queensland providing photographic services. The site contains a photo gallery.
http://www.gil.com.au/comm/digit

### DIVINE E-ZINE
Sex, drugs, comics, sound, technology, photography – this zine has it all. This humourous site is hip so you'll have to spend a bit of time finding your way about. This issue has a condom survey.
http://www.real.net.au/~justin

### DON BOSCO CAMP
The camp is located on the Mornington Peninsula about 70 kilometres from Melbourne. They specialise in family, school

and youth groups. The Peninsula is studded with golf courses, boutique wineries, craft markets and fine restaurants. Also nearby are horse riding, indoor sports centres, mini-golf, squash and tennis facilities. Discounts for group bookings can be arranged.
**http://www.ozemail.com.au/~aatre/donbosco.html**

### DREADNOUGHT PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS AUSTRALIA

Dreadnought is a licensed private investigator and commercial agent operating throughout Australia. Debt collection services are also provided.
**http://www.ozemail.com.au/~drednort**

### DUBBO CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Promoting the investment opportunities for commercial and industrial development in the city of Dubbo. They also provide tourism and recreation information about the city.
**http://www.dubbo.com.au**

### FIREQUIP PTY LTD

Sydney based Firequip supplies fire protection products and services.
**http://www.niceeasy.com.au/firequip.html**

### FLORAFEST ORCHIDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Orchid Nursery carries a full range of orchids from flask to flowering sizes. Contains links, images, articles and information. They also provide expert export advice.
**http://www2.eis.net.au/~ff**

### FOLD-N-ROLL

A roofing and paving supplies company and major distributor of BHP building products.
**http://www.niceeasy.com.au/foldnroll.html**

### FREEPHONE

A Sydney retailer of cellular mobile phones and facsimile machines with information about mobile phones in general.
**http://www.geko.net.au/~torip**

### FREEZE-IT

Instant pipe freezing and nitrogen supplies. This is an all-areas freezing service for most types of pipes.
**http://www.niceeasy.com.au/freeze.html**

### FRESHAIR

Air cleaners and a pitch for you to sell their product. Lots of information on the dangers of breathing poor air.
**http://www.bluenet.net/FreshAir/index.html**

### GLOBE SUBSCRIPTION AGENCY P/L

Service provider to libraries for publications from worldwide sources. Subscription Agents.
**http://globe.pcmedia.com.au**

### GOLDEN SQUARE FIRE BRIGADE C.F.A

Home page of the Golden Square Fire Brigade with links to other Australian fire protection services.
**http://www.bendigo.net.au/~rdwilson/index.htm**

### GROOVA'S WEB

Updated monthly, Groova's Web contains a Seinfeld page with information, links and trivia that would be of interest to Australian fans of the show. There's also a movie page with reviews of new releases and links to Australian cinemas.
**http://www.ne.com.au/~stephg**

### HODGSON & LEE

An industrial, commercial and domestic plumbing and electrical service. They also offer a 24-hour emergency service. The company is located in Sydney, NSW.
**http://www.niceeasy.com.au/hodgson.html**

### INSTITUTE OF PLUMBING AUSTRALIA (NSW CHAPTER)

Plumbing Institute to protect and advance the status of all those engaged in, or associated with, plumbing.
**http://www.niceeasy.com.au/institute.html**

### INTEG88

Find out about the lightweight, cyclone-proof building system, Integ 88. They claim it is easy to erect and disassemble.
**http://www.acay.com.au/~adderley/integ88/integ88.html**

### INTERNET BABY MALL

The Internet Baby Mall is a specialist shopping and resource centre for new and expectant parents. It contains lots of new products to review and purchase online, FAQs on popular parenting issues and free mother and baby tips that other parents have contributed.
**http://www.localnet.com.au/~mako**

### INTREPID GEOPHYSICAL SOFTWARE

Desmond Fitzgerald & Associates provides specialist services to the Earth Sciences and Geotechnical industries. This site presents the integrated geophysical processing and interpretation system – INTREPID.
**http://www.dfa.com.au**

### JEAN-LOUIS BOGLIO MARITIME BOOKS

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### JEMTEK

Page of tutorials and code for Internet programmers.
**http://www.jemtek.com.au/jemtek**

### KAZU'S WEB

Fans of *Blade Runner* may find this site interesting, if you can get past the 'cool' talk. It's also a page making use of a heap of new HTML code. Fans might like the multimedia stuff.
**http://www.ozemail.com.au/~kazu2u** ■

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# Technobabble

**Here is a list of terms and what they mean to help you get your head around the jargon, gibberish, claptrap, drivel and acronyms you will come across in your travels online.**

**E-MANNERS:** Customs for the Internet or the way to behave online.

**FTP:** A method for moving files quickly around the Internet. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol.

**HTML:** Hyper Text Markup Language is the language of the Web. If you look at a Web page and use the *View* menu to select the *Document Source* option, you will see the HTML codes mixed in with the text. HTML tells your Web browser how to display the pages it downloads from the Web.

**HTTP:** HyperText Transport Protocol is the protocol of the World Wide Web. It determines how personal computers and Web servers communicate with each other to enable users to access sites and information on the Web.

**HYPERLINKS:** These link information from one document to another. For example, it might point from a document on my computer to another document on a computer in Germany or the US.

**HYPERTEXT:** Hypertext is text that links to other text documents. In the case of the WWW, clicking on one of these links can take you from one site to another. Hypertext can also work within pages so a link at the top of the page may take you to a point lower down on the same page.

**JAVA:** Java is a programming language. On the Internet, it is used to create Java applets or small programs that can add animation or other special features to Web pages. JavaScript is a simplified version of Java.

**MIME:** Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions are a way of moving data around with e-mail messages without resorting to complex encoding. E-mail was designed to carry text only, but people want to send everything from programs to pictures of their kids through the e-mail systems, so MIME was developed as a way to do this.

**POP:** Post Office Protocol is the protocol that specifies how a user's computer connects to a mail server on the Net to download e-mail.

**PPP:** Point-to-Point Protocol is similar to SLIP (see below) and is used when connecting directly to the Net over a serial line such as a telephone line. PPP is generally preferred to SLIP because it is secure, stable and operates faster.

**SEARCH TOOLS, SEARCH ENGINE:** A search engine is like the index in a library. It lists Web pages with a brief description of each one. You can use a search engine to find Web pages that have useful information or that cover a topic you're interested in.

**SERVERS:** Web servers store and send out the pages that make up the World Wide Web. There are more than 250,000 of these machines on the Web. They are sometimes also known as 'hosts'.

**SLIP:** Serial Line Internet Protocol is a TCP/IP protocol for connecting directly to the Net over a telephone line. With SLIP, personal computer users can connect to other computers on the Net and still function in their native environment (instead of being forced to function in a UNIX character-based environment).

**URL:** A Universal Resource Locator is a pointer to some 'location' on the Internet. In the case of the Web, a URL will point to a single Web page or graphic. A URL is the main component of a hyperlink.

**UUENCODE/UUDECODE AND BIN-HEX:** These are both ways to carry data around inside e-mail messages. These programs convert the binary or picture files into a form that can work inside an e-mail message. When the message is received at the other end, the user must then decode the message again.

**SITES, WEB SITES:** A site is a 'place' on the Web. It usually refers to the collections of pages that make up a single entity (or site) on the Web. Usually, but not always, the pages within a site are stored on the same computer.

**WORLD WIDE WEB:** The Web is a system that runs on top of the Net. It is made up of millions of 'pages' linked together by hyperlinks.

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| Casio/Haco | 115 | |
| Compucon | 38 | http://www.compucon.com |
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| C.Dot Australia | 29 | |
| Cybec | 63 | http://www.cybec.com.au |
| Digi Press | 46 | |
| Dom Names.com | 114 | http://domnames.com/oz |
| ECOM Computers | 96 | |
| Empirical Solutions | 13 | http://www.eventnet.aust.com |
| Hayes Microcomputer Products | 8 | http://www.hayes.com |
| Hewlett Packard | 24 & 25 | http://hpuxsyd/ |
| Hitech | 11 | |
| Home Interactive | 6 | http://www.hilad.www.com.au |
| Hudson Software | 96 | |
| Jacaranda Wiley | 42 | |
| Konicon | 21 | |
| Leprechaun Software | 18 | http://www/leprechaun.com.au |
| Lotus | 57, 59 | http://www.lotus.com |
| Maestro Modems | 108 | http://www.maestro.com.au |
| Management Technology & Education | insert | |
| Netspace Online Systems | 37 | http://www.netspace.net.au |
| Norman Data Defence systems | 80 | http://www.norman.com |
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| ProVision | 116 | http://www.provision.com.au |
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| Sun Microsystems | 2 | http://www.sun.com |
| TDK | 102 | http://www.tdk.com |
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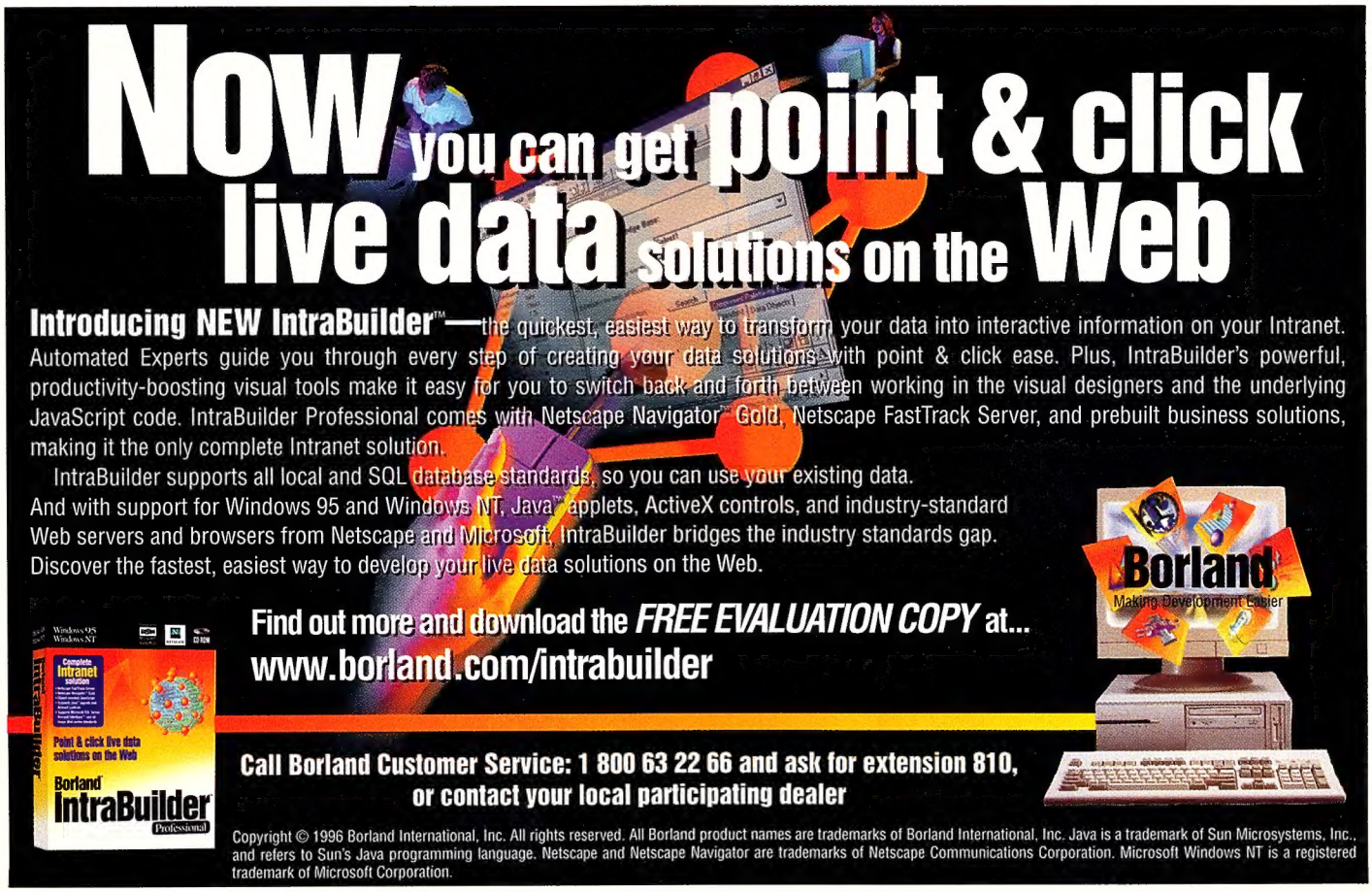

# The perfect virtual holiday

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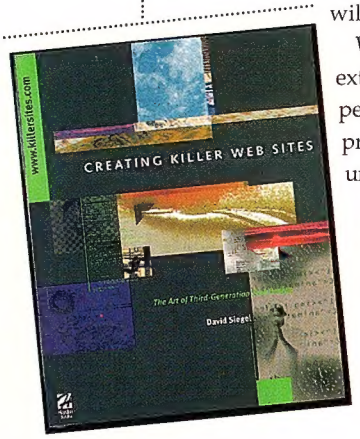
Send your entry to Holidiary, *Australian Net Guide*, unit 22, 39 Herbert St, St Leonards NSW 2065 by 3 January, 1997 and you'll be in the running to win a copy of *Creating Killer Web Sites*, a revolutionary look at the future of Web design by David Siegel. This book has been kindly donated by publisher Prentice Hall Australia.

If you want to plan a real holiday, go to the tutorial at our Web site (http://netguide.aust.com) called 'Customising your Travel Bible' to help you on your way. Be sure to be back from you virtual holiday in time for our next issue.

Good Luck! ■




***Creating Killer Web Sites* by David Siegel takes a look into the future of Web design and shows the reader how to create a site worthy of the tag 'third generation'. *ANG* loved this book so much it was chosen as one of the 'Top Ten Gifts for the Technophile' (see page 48). If you aren't lucky enough to win our killer competition, rush out to your nearest good bookstore, or contact Prentice Hall Australia on (02) 9939 1333 or fax: (02) 9938 6826 to get your copy.**

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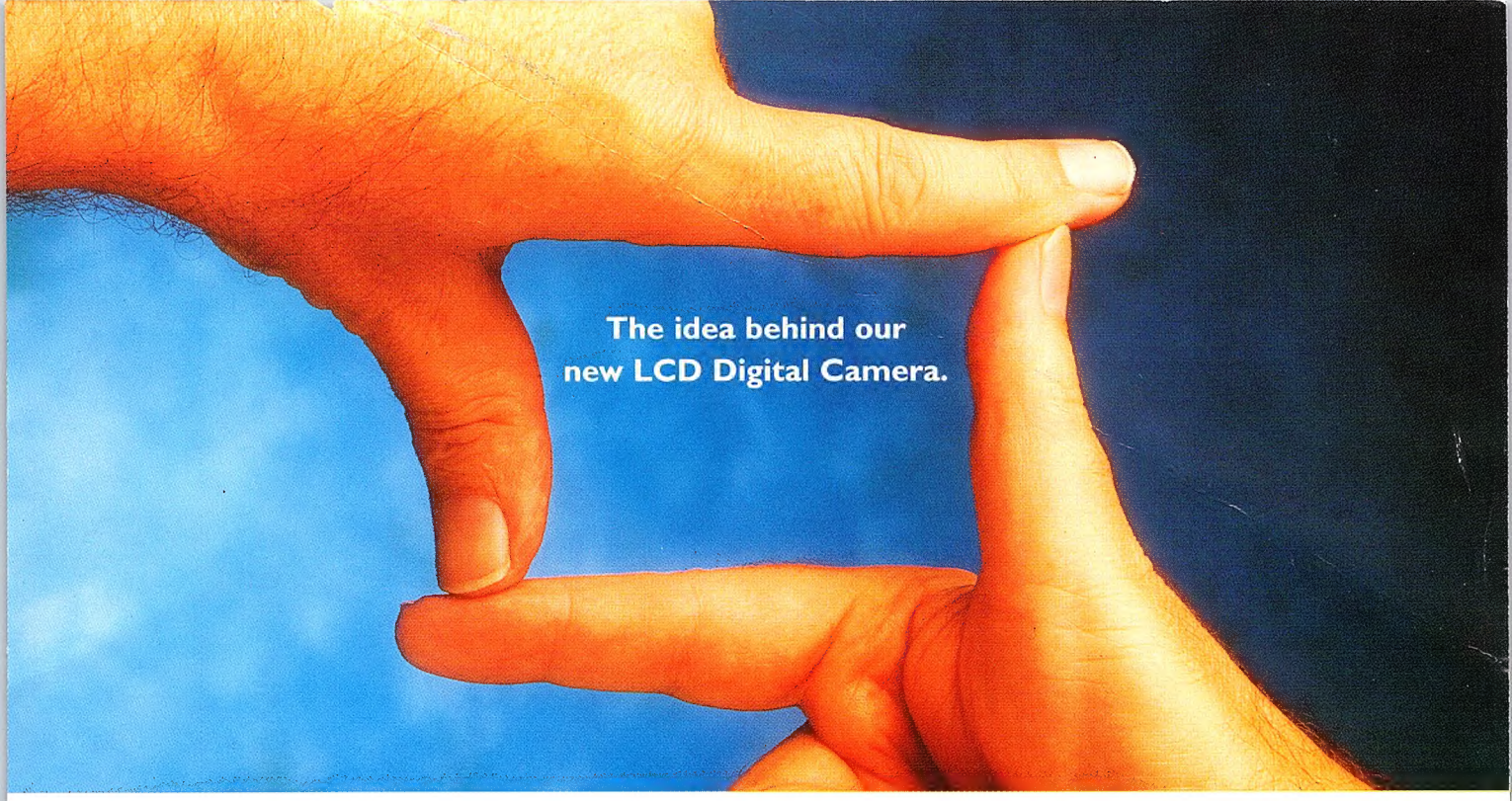

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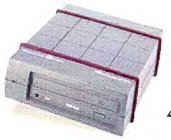

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